

Hafa Adai!

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**22**  
**DAYS TO GO**  
**BEFORE CHRISTMAS**

#### OPINION METER

**This week's poll:**  
Will you spend more, less,  
or about the same as last  
year, on your Christmas  
shopping this year?

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Go to  
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to cast your vote.

**64** without a  
government  
budget for  
FY 2009  
**DAYS**

INSIDE



#### Fey for President

Tina Fey's husband is talking about something the "30 Rock" actress would rather not discuss.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 18

Power plant rehabilitated by end of 2009 if... **PAGE 3**

Sex abuse case vs ex-school bus driver dismissed. **PAGE 5**

## More remittance firms closing

By KRISTI EATON  
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REPORTER

As less money is sent overseas, several remittance centers have closed down.



So far this year three remittance centers—PQ Corporation, Sapphire Enterprises, Inc. and TKL Enterprises—have closed. Saipan Galing Remittance Center is in the process of notifying



A man counts his local currencies after converting his U.S. dollars to pesos inside a money changer's shop Friday, Nov. 21, 2008 in Manila at the current rate of Php 50.18 to US\$1.

the public it is closing.

The four centers accounted for \$7.9 million of the \$93.6 million remitted in 2007. TKL Enterprises remitted the majority of the money—\$7.1 million in 2007.

Four remittance companies closed their business in 2007, namely America Joint-Partner Corp., Micronesia Money Exchange Co., Oceania Remittance Center and Yun Mee Corp.

Total remittances have dropped significantly in the last few years.

Overseas remittances went down 8.4 percent from \$102.2 million to \$93.6 million in 2007.

The remittance figures last year were the lowest since Commerce reported total remittances of \$80.5 million in

See **MORE** on Page 4

## Tinian Santa may cancel gift-giving this year

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.  
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REPORTER

Remember the kindhearted lady who has been playing the role of Santa Claus among children on Tinian for the past two Christmases?

Maia, who prefers to be called by her lowercased first name, said yesterday that she might cancel the third annual

See **TINIAN** on Page 4

## Pierce: Outmigration feeds on itself

By KRISTI EATON  
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REPORTER

The Cabinet official responsible for seeking funding and facilitating the data for the recently released economic impact study said he believes outmigration will have a larger effect on the CNMI than reported.

"Outmigration feeds on itself, and makes a bad situation worse," said Richard A. Pierce, the governor's special assistant for economic affairs and trade relations. "I totally agree that outmigration of U.S. citizens from the CNMI, combined with the 15,000 apparel industry personnel repatriated to their point of hire, will play the largest role in determining the future of the CNMI."

Pierce

See **PIERCE** on Page 4



#### ROTA'S FIRST COMMERCIAL PILOT

Senate President Pete Reyes hands over a framed copy of a resolution commending the achievements of Rota's first commercial pilot, Francisco Sasakura Mendiola, as House Speaker Arnold Palacios and Mendiola's wife, parents Fidel and Fermina, look on during a simple presentation at the Senate Chamber yesterday. Not shown are other senators and congressmen. See story on Page 2.



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## Local

# Proposed regs seek to allow changes to approved QCs

By AGNES E. DONATO  
agnes\_donato@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Development Authority is promulgating regulations to allow changes to approved tax breaks for investors.

The proposed regulations, which appear on the Dec. 1, 2008 issue of the Commonwealth Register, provide procedures for modifications to active qualifying certificates.

The public notice state that the proposed amendments to existing rules are necessary "to effectively carry out the intent of the Investment Incentive Act

of 2000," which created the qualifying certificate program to attract investors to the Commonwealth.

The proposed regulations, now subject to a 30-day public comment period, are believed to be designed to accommodate Saipan LauLau Development Inc. The Kumho-Asiana subsidiary has been granted up to \$18 million in tax relief for its multimillion-dollar construction at the LaoLao Bay Golf Resort. It is now asking CDA for more incentives.

Under the proposed rules, a good standing beneficiary can

request changes to the qualifying certificate within 90 days of receiving it. Changes will only be made to requests filed on or after Oct. 1, 2008.

The CDA board of directors then has 45 days to either disapprove the request or recommend approval by the governor. If CDA fails to act on the request, the request goes directly to the governor. The governor will then have 45 days to act on the request. If no action is taken, the request will be deemed rejected.

The House of Representatives last month adopted a resolution

asking the Commonwealth Development Authority to deny LauLau's request for more tax benefits. The resolution says the Legislature has been accommodating enough to the investor. It points to the new 40-year lease agreement for 161 hectares of land at a rental rate of \$103,000 a year, a substantial decrease from the original rental amount of \$384,000. It adds that the investor has been given relief from all applicable taxes, except for alcoholic beverage tax.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, who supports giving Kumho Asiana additional tax breaks, has called

the resolution "an attempt to sabotage the CNMI's economic recovery efforts during a time of global financial crisis." He says that this is not the time to be withholding critical investment incentives, especially from a "committed investor" such as Kumho Asiana.

Earlier this year, CDA and Fitial approved a plan to provide up to \$18 million in tax relief for the \$68.8 million golf hotel, or "golftel," a complex with condominium-style apartments

for golf tourists. The tax relief ceiling is significantly less than the \$27.7 million the resort had requested.

In November, officials of LaoLao Bay Golf Resort disclosed that the construction project has been scaled down because of the global economic crisis. The total investment to the resort has been reduced to \$60 million. The completion of the project, originally set for July 1, 2009, is now expected in the end of 2009.

## Rota's first commercial pilot touches down at Legislature

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.  
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REPORTER

Francisco Sasakura Mendiola hopes that more youth would pursue a career in aviation because it is one of the areas where the CNMI is lacking.

Mendiola was presented with a legislative resolution commending him for his achievements as the CNMI's first commercial pilot from Rota before a Senate session yesterday morning.

"I thank the Legislature, especially Sen. Paul Manglona, who introduced the resolution. My family would like to thank all of you," said Mendiola, who was accompanied by his wife Judy, parents Fidel and Fermina and sister Villia Hocog during the simple presentation ceremony led by Senate President Pete A. Reyes and House Speaker Arnold Palacios.

Reyes read the lengthy resolution that traced Mendiola's career path, from being an elementary student on Rota to a refrigeration technology graduate in Guam, then an aviation certificate in Hawaii, and now as a full-fledged pilot.

Mendiola received his Private Pilot Certificate from the Associated Aviation Activities in Honolulu as well as his Instrument,

Commercial and Multi-Engine Certificates from the Hawaii Country Club of The Air. He completed his Air Traffic Controller Training in June 1985.

Mendiola began his career in aviation when he became a first officer and captain on a DeHavilland Twin Otter on scheduled and chartered flights throughout Guam and the CNMI in 1986 for Maui Airlines.

In 1987, Mendiola became a Captain on a Twin Piper, flying tourists around Hawaiian Islands for Panorama Air Tour, then at Aloha Island Air.

In 1992, he moved to Hawaiian Airlines, where he became a first officer on a Boeing 767-300.

From 1992 to 1998, Mendiola worked at Pacific Island Aviation on Saipan.

This month, he is scheduled to be promoted as a Captain on a Boeing 767-300ER with Hawaiian Airlines.

Mendiola has a current total flight time of 19,000 hours.

He is certified as a Transport Pilot and Flight Engineer for airplane types Embraer EMB-110, Shorts SD-3 Boeing B757 and B767 and McDonnell Douglas DC-10.

Mendiola also has interests in photography, electricity and air-conditioning.

## Charter change pushed to amend NMI election year

By AGNES E. DONATO  
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REPORTER

Lawmakers are proposing to amend the Constitution to synchronize the Commonwealth's regular election with the federal election.

Rep. Diego Benavente, chairman of the House Committee on Federal and Foreign Relations, has sponsored a legislative initiative that would postpone the 2011 CNMI election for 2012 to coincide with the national election, and then hold it every two years afterwards.

The initiative seeks shorter terms for some officials to be elected next year, and longer

terms for others. Under the initiative, the next governor and Lt. governor, as well as the senators and mayors elected in 2009, will serve three-year terms, instead of four-year terms. Meanwhile, the terms of the representatives, municipal council members, and Board of Education members would be extended from two years to three years.

The terms for the respective offices will revert back to their regular length after the 2012 election.

Benavente and the co-sponsors of the initiative cite cost as the primary reason the CNMI should make its elections consecutive.

See CHARTER on Page 4

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| \$100,000 and Over                             | 0.60%                                  | 1.60%   | 2.20%  |
| \$25,000 to \$99,999                           | 0.20%                                  | 1.60%   | 1.80%  |
| \$10,000 to \$24,999                           | 0.10%                                  | 1.60%   | 1.70%  |
| Less than \$10,000                             | 0.05%                                  | 1.60%   | 1.65%  |



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# Power plant rehabilitated by end of 2009 if...

By KRISTI EATON

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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s Power Plant 1 should be producing 41 megawatts of power—the island's daily demand—by Dec. 31, 2009, if it gets the \$3.89 million needed to repair the engines, according to an expenditure plan given to Gov. Benigno Fitial by CUC executive director Antonio Muña.

The plan details the timetable and amount of money needed to

rehabilitate the engines at Power Plant 1.

Power Plant 1 currently is producing 8.5 megawatts. CUC is seeking \$3.89 million in Capital Improvement Project funds from the Office of Insular Affairs for the work. That money, along with \$1.59 million available from other account balances, will provide \$5.48 million to rehabilitate the engines.

"In order to ensure that CUC is capable of producing sufficient and reliable power by Ag-

greko contract expiration and not have to implement a rotating brownout schedule that would be adverse to the CNMI's economy and will place at risk the public health and safety of the CNMI residents, I am respectfully requesting an additional CIP funding of \$3.89 million to pay for continued rehabilitation costs of Power Plant 1," Muna wrote to Fitial.

The Aggreko contract expires Sept. 11, 2009, with a possible six-month extension.

According to the expenditure plan, CUC could produce 38.5 megawatts of power from Power Plant 1 by Sept. 30, 2009. That, along with the power produced by privately run Power Plant 4, would allow for 54 megawatts by Sept. 30, 2009.

The timeline provided to Fitial details the overhaul and maintenance schedules of units at Power Plant 1. By the end of 2008, according to the timeline, Power Plant 1 should produce 12.5 megawatts. Production

will increase accordingly:

- March 2009: 22.5 megawatts
- June 2009: 28.5 megawatts
- September 2009: 38.5 megawatts
- November 2009: 33.5 megawatts (due to an overhaul of one engine)
- December 2009: 41 megawatts

According to the expenditure plan, the rehabilitation project will cost \$5,484,923. It will be broken down into labor only (\$800,000); labor, parts and materials (\$4,088,503); and equipment, tools and instruments (\$596,420). Engine number 5 will be the most expensive to rehabilitate at more than \$2 million, while engine 2 will incur

no costs.

In December 2007, CUC signed a six-month contract with Guam-based DCM Group for \$5.1 million. DCM was hired to repair seven of the eight engines at Power Plant 1. In July of this year, CUC terminated the contract after DCM failed to fix the engines. Muña has said CUC paid DCM \$400,000 before the contract was terminated. CUC is still in talks with the company to come to terms with an agreement.

"We still are trying to work with the contractor to get that resolved," he has said. He said CUC did not want to file a lawsuit against DCM, and that the Attorney General's Office was handling negotiations with the company.

## Governor inks World AIDS Day proclamation

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed yesterday a proclamation declaring December 2008 as World AIDS Awareness Month in a simple ceremony at his office on Capital Hill.

The proclamation is in recognition of the need for the continued commitment of all governments and policy makers worldwide to combat HIV and AIDS.

This year's World AIDS Campaign theme is, "Stop AIDS. Keep the Promise—Lead, Empower, Deliver."

The Governor said this is a time to expand and strengthen the effort to stop the spread of dreaded disease.

"HIV and AIDS continue to be a health concern here in the CNMI with an increase in the number of HIV and AIDS cases in both indigenous and non-indigenous populations," the proclamation stated.

The Governor said the awareness campaign provides an opportunity to renew the fight against HIV and AIDS, and bring to light continued efforts in the delivery of HIV prevention programs, services, and care.

He said the fight against HIV and AIDS will be won by effective HIV infection prevention



Gov. Benigno Fitial after signing the proclamation declaring December as World AIDS Awareness Month.

and scientific research to find a cure, the people of the CNMI are encouraged to protect themselves, get tested, stay aware and educated about the risks of HIV transmission.

World AIDS Day was on Monday, Dec. 1.

Meanwhile, the Department of Public Health is reminding everyone the importance of having a check-up to help prevent spread of the dreaded disease.

Rapid HIV testing is now available free of charge in Family Planning clinics on Saipan,

Tinian and Rota.

AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome) is a disease a person gets when HIV destroys the body's immune system. HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) kills the cells that help the body fight off infection and disease.

The test is done on the lining of the mouth so no blood draw is needed.

The test takes 20 minutes, so results are available that same visit.

Aside from HIV testing, the program also provides educa-

tion services onsite at its Family Planning funded clinics throughout the CNMI.

Testing is currently available at the Southern Community Wellness Center (664-4850); CHC Women's Clinic (234-8950); and the Adolescent Health Center at Marianas High School (237-3283); all three clinics are located here on Saipan.

The contact number at the Tinian Health Center is 433-9263 while the Rota Health Center is 532-9461.

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**Thursday Night**  
**Miller Family Beers**  
**\$3.00 (bottle)**



# New car sales dip by more than half

By KRISTI EATON

Kristi\_eaton@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Automobile Dealers Association reported yesterday that new car sales fell 55 percent last month after the islands' three auto dealerships sold only 22 units in November 2008 compared

to the 49 in November 2007.

Microl Corp. led the way with 11 new car sales, a 63.33-percent decrease from the 30 units sold in the same period last year. The San Jose automobile dealership, which captured 50 percent of the market, sold five cars, five sport utility vehicles

and one truck last month.

Microl Corp. was followed by Joeten Motors, which saw a 14.29-percent increase in sales with eight units sold last month compared to the seven sold in November 2007. The auto dealership of the Joeten Group of Companies sold three

trucks, three SUVs, one car and one van. It had a 36.62 percent share of the market in November 2008.

Triple J Motors, meanwhile, saw a 75-percent drop in sales with three units sold in November 2008 compared to 12 in the same period in 2007. The lower

Garapan auto dealership sold two SUVs and one car and cornered 13.64 percent of the market last month.

Altogether, 10 SUVs, seven cars, four trucks and one van were sold last month. Toyota was the most popular car and SUV model, selling five each.

Nissan was the most popular model for trucks and the sole van sold was a Ford.

Microl Corp. sells Toyota and Chevrolet, while Joeten Motors sells Nissan, Ford, Honda, and Kia. Triple J Motors sells Hyundai, Mitsubishi, Isuzu, Suzuki and Mazda.

## Fishermen's group finds illegal dump during cleanup

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

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REPORTER

In a cleanup drive on Nov. 22, members of the Saipan Fishermen's Association collected about 200 lbs of trash and stumbled upon an illegal dumpsite on the east side of the beach near the former Ship Ashore Restaurant.

The cleanup was in collaboration with the Division of Environmental Quality's monthly brigade activity.

The group said family members of the SFA joined the community effort, gathering trash and other debris during the cleanup.

SFA Beautification chair

Frank Tudela thanked members for volunteering their time to help with this effort.

"Without their untiring assistance, the cleanup would have not been made possible," he said.

After the cleanup, various members from the SFA were on hand for a photo shoot with their

family members.

Tudela, who is spearheading the project, said the program intends to increase more participation in future cleanups.

The DEQ has been organizing the monthly cleanup at various beaches by tapping various groups of volunteers and individuals over the past few

years. The usual trash collected at beaches are aluminum cans (beer and soda), water bottles, ice tea bottles and some household items.

The DEQ is reminding the public that anyone caught dumping trash or littering would be prosecuted. Violators may be fined \$250 or put behind bars.

"The SFA is committed to preserving the environment, and this is one way in which we can protect our ocean. We chose the site, the Garapan Fishing Base Complex to clean up because it is located right next to the dock, where often times trash and debris pile up," said SFA president Gene Weaver.

### MORE

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2003. The following two years, remittances increased by double figures—17.5 percent to \$94.6 million in 2004 and 19 percent to \$112.6 million in 2005.

Remittances fell 3.3 percent from the second quarter of 2008 to the third quarter of this year.

Because of the drop in numbers and centers closing, the

Department of Commerce is proposing new regulations in order to protect the public.

Under the proposed regulations, companies that transmit money would be required to make a \$100,000 security deposit or bond. Currently, companies are required to make a \$50,000 deposit or bond. Remittance companies would also be required to file electronic copies of their quarterly reports and provide more in-

formation in the reports, and comply with federal registration and reporting requirements.

Fees for foreign currency exchange companies and remittance companies would increase under the proposed regulations.

Currently, a company must pay \$300 for a foreign exchange dealer license and \$30 for an agent license. Under the proposed changes, foreign ex-

change companies would pay \$300 for a dealer license and pay \$50 for an agent license. Remittance companies would pay \$300 for a license and \$50 for a remittance agent license.

For companies desiring to withdraw their license, the new regulations would create strict guidelines, including submitting an application and placing a notice of intention to close in the newspaper with specific language.

### PIERCE

From Page 1

ing declines in business activity by only aggravating the economic situation."

The study, Economic Impact of Federal Laws on the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, uses the assumption that the U.S.-qualified resident population will remain relatively constant between 2005 and 2015.

It is an arguable assumption, the report notes. Preliminary evidence, according to the report, shows that as many as 4,000 U.S.-qualified residents have moved to the states in response to the economic downturn. The study does not state the years involved in the figure.

Pierce said he estimates the CNMI will have lost more than 2,500 U.S. citizen residents from 2006 through 2008. He gathered his data from a variety of sources, including the CNMI Election Board on voter registration; CUC utility permanent disconnections; the Retirement Fund's report showing fund withdrawals; the Scholarship Fund; the Border Management System showing residents not returning after six months; business licensing declines; the decline in U.S. taxpayers; and private surveys showing business closures be-

tween 2005 and 2007.

Pierce said he believes a large percentage of U.S. citizens, college age and slightly older, are leaving.

"This is not to say that it would never happen when better schools and opportunities are elsewhere, but it is greater than normal as a result of the current economic depression," he said. "These people are depriving the CNMI of its most able business owners and wage earners."

The study states that the loss of local residents would further damage the economy in two ways. First, it would reduce the number of available people for the work force, and second, the CNMI would lose its "best and brightest," further reducing the CNMI's chances for economic advancement in the future, according to the report.

One of the authors of the study, Malcolm McPhee, will meet with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial on Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2008, at 11am. On the same day, at 1:30pm, McPhee will put on a presentation "exclusively" for the members of the Legislature and the governor's Cabinet on the economic report, according to a memorandum that the governor issued yesterday. The Fitial administration is still ironing out details of a planned presentation for the members of the community, Pierce said.

### FEDERALIZATION

From Page 1

raised during the meeting are the consequences that the new rules might have for the immediate alien relatives of U.S. and Freely Associated States citizens, for the guest workers who must meet certain income criteria to secure temporary work visas, and for the permanent foreign residents and retirees.

Rep. Diego T. Benavente, chairman of the House Committee on Federal and Foreign Relations,

said the task force will draft several resolutions proposing ways the U.S. Department of Homeland Security could address these issues. The DHS is currently writing the regulations to implement the immigration law.

"We acknowledge the fact that we can only do so much as members of the Legislature to influence the regulations. However, we also cannot just sit back and wait for the federal government to release the regulations. We need to be proactive," said Benavente.

He added that the task force is

encouraged by the U.S. government's seeming acceptance of the CNMI's request for special consideration for foreign investors in the Commonwealth. The DHS recently disclosed its intent to create a new visa classification to help foreign investors in the CNMI as they prepare to convert from the local system to the federalized system.

Yet, Benavente also noted that the task force must get its work done fast, as the new immigration policy goes into effect in six months.

The task force was cre-

ated through a joint Senate and House resolution, which expresses the Legislature's desire "to be an informed participant, in collaboration with concerned public and private entities, in the development of [U.S. Public Law] 110-229 regulations at they pertain to the CNMI."

The job of the task force is to conduct public hearings, make official inquiries on federalization, and keep the Legislature informed of any development on the drafting of the regulations.

about 20 gifts will be distributed to children on Tinian.

The gifts they have collected were to be transferred to the Center later yesterday afternoon.

"I'd hate to have to close the Center," maia said, "but what choice do I have, if no one in officialdom even wants to admit it's been here and been helping their own people all this time, much less help me continue to do it!"

She added, "If it weren't for the generosity of Edward Vilagomez offering the building rent-free, and for Connie Manglona doing the same in a previous location," plus her constant support, there would never have been a Donation Center at all.

"And if those who are supposed to be taking care of their people want to go on pretending it doesn't exist, they'll get their wish—and it won't."

Maia may be contacted at maia3maia@hotmail.com, or tel. # 433-9993.

### TINIAN

From Page 1

Christmas giveaway that was originally scheduled to be held at the maia's Books & Donation Center from Dec. 15-22.

Maia founded the Center and runs the program at her home by herself.

Now 70 years old, maia said that, without help, she is unable to handle the many needy families who should be receiving the vouchers for the free children's gifts.

Because of this, she said, she is reluctantly considering canceling the event.

If she does cancel the event, she will still be faced with the problem of what to do with the 200 Christmas gifts that she has already obtained from generous donors abroad and from local people who have donated.

The Division of Youth Services

used to help maia with the distribution of the vouchers in previous years but hasn't done so this year due to the absence of Director Lilian Cepeda, who is on leave.

Maia said the current division head has not been able to provide her "with needed information on the number of children to be 'gifted' and seems incapable of handling the priority rating of the vouchers, as well."

*Saipan Tribune* called the DYS office several times yesterday afternoon but no one answered the phone.

For the past three years, maia has been providing free books, clothes, shoes, and all kinds of other necessities to those in need, but she said her many attempts to obtain recognition and support from the local administration for the Center and her other projects, such as a shelter for abused women and an international peace center, "have been ignored."

She also said that, although the Center is right outside the back door of the Tinian Mayor's Office, "where all of his employees park their cars for over a year," the current mayor has never visited the Center—despite many invitation—"to see how his constituents are helping each other with donations of things they don't use, that [maia] makes available to anyone who need them."

All these, maia says, contributes to her contemplating canceling the Christmas gift event and perhaps even closing down the Donation Center altogether.

Tinian Mayor Jose San Nicolas was unavailable for comment as of press time. He was at a project site.

An office staff said, though, that it is not true that the mayor never visited the Center.

The staff told *Saipan Tribune* in a telephone inquiry that the mayor had in fact solicited donations from Saipan and that

# Labor clears five names on 'overstayers list'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

As of yesterday afternoon, the Department of Labor has already cleared at least five persons on its list containing 624 names of allegedly overstaying alien workers in the CNMI.

Saipan Tribune learned from a Labor staff that four persons were taken off the list after they

were able to produce documents to prove their immigration status.

The staff said that Roderick A. Alegre was among the five names removed from the list. Alegre, once a member of CNMI Men's National Team, died of heart failure during a basketball game at Ada Gym on Feb. 13, 2008.

The overstayers report was

published Monday.

The staff said four other persons called Labor to deny they are overstayers and that they have already looked into the records of the four callers.

When asked about the names of the four, Labor Director's executive secretary, Evelyn Sablan, referred Saipan Tribune to Labor Deputy Secretary Cinta Kaipat. Kaipat, however, was not avail-

able as she was in a meeting with another Labor official.

Last May, Kaipat told the Legislature that Labor has put up new procedures to easily identify overstaying alien workers in the CNMI.

Kaipat said that, as part of Labor's new operating procedures, they have established procedures for creating an "overstayer list" out of Labor's administrative

actions each quarter.

Kaipat said the first of such list was published in a newspaper last May 12.

She said the list was published to give persons on the list an opportunity to appear at Labor and correct any error that may have been made.

The "overstayers list" published Monday contained the names of 624 alien workers,

mostly Filipinos and Chinese.

In the Labor's notice, people on the list have been advised to depart the CNMI immediately.

"Persons who depart the Commonwealth voluntarily are eligible to return; those who are deported are not eligible to return," Labor said.

Workers whose names are on the list but have a valid immigration status that allows them to be in the CNMI are urged to report to Labor Director's executive secretary, Evelyn Sablan, before Dec. 29, 2008 to correct the records.

Labor is expected to publish again the overstayers list on Dec. 8, 2008.

## Sex abuse case vs ex-school bus driver dismissed

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja yesterday dismissed without finality a sexual abuse case filed against a former Rota school bus driver.

Naraja dismissed without prejudice the case against James N. Kintaro following the recommendation of the Attorney General's Office.

Naraja vacated the scheduled Dec. 9, 2008, jury trial of the 46-year-old Kintaro.

Chief Prosecutor Kevin A. Lynch, in the government's motion to dismiss, explained that the parents of the minor victim informed the AGO that she is in an off-island school and that the December trial date will seriously and detrimentally affect her education.

Lynch said the parents had stated that "the court hearing on Dec. 9, 2008, would completely and totally devastate her emotionally, which, in turn, will also adversely affect her studies."

Lynch said the government also understands that the victim expects to graduate in 2009 and that the trial will be "at the expense of our daughter not graduating from high school."

Finally, the chief prosecutor said, the government has been

told that the victim's school will not allow her to return to the CNMI to participate in the Dec. 9 trial.

"The Commonwealth has twice attempted unsuccessfully to continue the trial until June 2009 to allow for the victim's graduation and to minimize her emotional devastation. The minor is a necessary witness in the case," Lynch said.

Under the facts of the situation, he said, the Commonwealth must consider the negative impact on the victim and the statements of the parents regarding the effect of proceeding to trial.

"The Commonwealth has elected to exercise the option of dismissal of the case without prejudice with the option to recharge the case at a later time, rather than proceed to trial with knowledge that the effect will negatively impact the victim in the near and long terms," Lynch said.

Kintaro is being charged with sexual assault in the first degree, sexual assault in the second degree, sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree, and sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree.

Police said that on May 8, 2007, the Rota Department of Public Safety received a call from a man reporting a sexual abuse involving a 16-year-old girl.

The girl alleged that Kintaro

took her from the school parking lot using the Public School System van.

The defendant drove the girl

to a house next to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s power plant where he allegedly offered her marijuana, which

she refused.

When they entered the room of the house, Kintaro allegedly sexually assaulted the girl.

## PUBLIC NOTICE Attention Diabetics!

Pursuant to local and federal public health guidelines you are required to obtain an eye exam prior to December 31st of each year. Failure to do so may result in serious consequences including loss of vision and permanent blindness.

The cost of your exam is covered by medical insurance. If you are unable to pay, funding is available to cover your costs.

Report immediately to Marianas Eye Institute, Beach Road Garapan Across 13 Fishermen Monument or call 235-9090. Deadline extensions available.

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## Two get prison for resto burglary

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Superior Court yesterday imposed prison terms on two ex-convicts who burglarized Canton Restaurant in Garapan last March.

Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja sentenced Angel Chipwelong Ruben to a total of nine years in prison for the burglary and three previous cases.

Naraja sentenced Vince Santer Camacho to a total of eight years in prison for the burglary and one previous case.

After serving their prison terms, Ruben and Camacho, both 22 years old, will be placed on supervised probation. The two defendants were given credit for the time they had already served in jail.

Following a plea agreement, Naraja sentenced Ruben to 10 years in prison, all suspended except for five years, for burglary.

The judge also ordered

Ruben to serve the four-year sentence that was previously suspended in connection with his conviction in three previous cases.

Naraja sentenced Camacho to 10 years in prison, all suspended except for five years, for burglary.

Camacho was directed to serve the three-year sentence in the previously suspended prison term in his 2005 conviction.

Naraja said the two terms of incarceration against the two defendants shall be served consecutively.

This means that Ruben will serve a total of nine years in prison, while Camacho will serve eight years.

Naraja required the defendants to each pay a \$250 fine, \$100 court assessment fee plus \$100 in annual probation fee.

The defendants will also be required to each perform 200 hours of community service and write a letter of apology to the owners of Canton Restaurant.

## Glushko's Academy of Performing Arts Presents

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December 5, Friday & December 6, Saturday.  
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Tickets are \$15.00 for adults and \$10 for children ages 3 - 12yo  
available at the entrance, at Coffee Care Restaurant, at 1st Floral Shop (Garapan),  
at Himawari Store and Ebisuya Store, at "360" Restaurant and  
at Glushko's Academy (2nd floor of Marianas Business Plaza).  
Tel.:483-6271 or e-mail [GlushkosAcademy@yahoo.com](mailto:GlushkosAcademy@yahoo.com)

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# Lawmakers name Guam buildup TF members

Legislative leaders have named members to a joint task force created to study the planned military buildup on Guam.

Senate President Pete P. Reyes said the Upper House will be represented to the task force by Rota Sen. Paul A. Manglona, chairman, with Saipan Sen. Maria Frisca Pan-

gelinan and Tinian Sen. Joseph M. Mendiola as members.

House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios assigned Representatives Diego T. Benavente, Edwin P. Aldan, and David Apatang to work with the Senate members.

The group was created following the recent adoption of a resolution by the House of Representatives and the Senate. According to the joint resolution, the group will conduct “direct dialogue with representatives of the United States Armed Forces to ensure that the Commonwealth is informed of all matters related to the military expansion in the Marianas.”

The programmed military buildup in Guam involves the transfer of some 8,000 Marines and their dependents from Okinawa. The program involves using Tinian—and possibly Pagan and other parts of the CNMI’s northern islands—as a military training site.

Another group, formed by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial in February 2007, is tasked with representing the CNMI government in talks concerning the military buildup. That group is made up of Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez, some Cabinet officials, legislators, and business leaders. In addition, Retired Lt. General Wallace “Chip” Gregson, who served in the United States Marine Corps for 37 years before retiring in 2005, serves as the governor’s special adviser for military affairs. (*Agnes E. Donato*)

## CNMI teens to learn about being ‘Street Smart’

A team composed of firefighter-paramedics will be conducting presentations at three different schools on Saipan today in an effort to reduce teen injuries and fatalities.

Called the Street Smart program, the presentations are all about road safety, encouraging junior and senior high school students in the CNMI to be street smart. The team conducting the presentation will share life-saving lessons about alcohol, driving and making smart choices.

The Street Smart program will be presented in three sessions. The first one will be held at Kagman High School from 8:30am to 10:30am; Saipan Southern High School from 11am to 12:30pm; and Marianas High School from 1:40pm to 3pm.

The Street Smart program is being presented by members of Stay Alive From Education (SAFE), created by firefighter-paramedics dedicated to reducing teen injuries and fatalities. They visit high school and military bases across the U.S. to help young people be street smart when it comes to decisions on drinking and driving, underage drinking and illegal drug use.

The program is sponsored by Anheuser-Busch InBev and its local wholesaler, Marianas Pacific Distributors, Inc. (MarPac).

Street Smart will be presented to over 500 students in public schools on Saipan.

According to Joey Garrido, MarPac resident manager, this will be the second time the Street Smart Team will be visiting Saipan. The first visit took place in 2006, when the team visited Kagman High, Saipan Southern High, and Marianas High schools.

Street Smart takes audiences into a real-life drama experienced by firefighter-paramedics as they work to save lives of youth who have made poor choices, like drinking or using illegal drugs.

In the presentation, two certified paramedics will walk audience members through what happens at a trauma scene using medical equipment they employ in their daily jobs.

From taking a pulse, to simulating an intravenous line being inserted, audiences can see and feel not only what it’s like to try saving a life but also what it’s like to be the victim. The audience will even see irresponsible actions played out, hear choices that individuals are given while learning the stories behind the crashes.

Ambros Inc. (Guam) and MarPac Inc. general manager Tom Shimizu states, “Many of our employees are parents too, and we all want our children to make smart choices, including wearing their seat belts and not drinking when they’re underage. The paramedics’ real-life stories have a powerful long-lasting impact that encourages teens to be responsible about the choices they make,”

Street Smart engages audiences rather than lecturing or preaching to them. Using factual information, actual medical equipment and demonstrations involving students, the paramedics provide a real-life look at the consequence of irresponsible actions. The participants will also recognize EMS procedures, which may reduce anxiety if they are ever involved in traumatic experiences. Such presentation is beneficial not only to the patient but also to responders, rescue and emergency room personnel.

“We can see the impact on the students’ faces when they hear our real-life examples of what it’s like to be involved in a trauma,” said SAFE executive director Vincent Easevoli. “It’s so rewarding later when students share how the presentation has made a difference in their lives. Whether that’s choosing not to engage in underage drinking, or use illegal drugs, or choosing to wear a seatbelt, their stories motivate us to reach even more students with those positive messages.” (*PR*)

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BEFORE THE COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

INVESTIGATION OF THE COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION'S RATE STRUCTURE AND RELATED MATTERS

DOCKET 09-1

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On October 7, 2008, the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission [CPUC] commenced, on its own initiative pursuant to 4 CMC § 8409[b], an investigation of the Commonwealth Utilities Commission's [CUC] electric rate structure. Public Law 16-2:3 requires that this investigation be conducted on or before December 31, 2008. At CPUC's direction, its regulatory consultant [Georgetown] has undertaken a review of CUC's financial condition, operations and rate structure. Georgetown has also been tasked with recommending a CPUC protocol for regulating CUC's procurements and capital divestitures. On November 24, 2008, Georgetown issued a report on the results of this review. CUC has been given the opportunity, on or before December 8, 2008, to respond to the Georgetown report. These reports, when filed with CPUC, will be available for public inspection at the Law Offices of Viola Alepuyo, 2nd Floor, J.E. Tenorio Bldg, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950. This docket begins an incremental regulatory process by which CPUC will first determine and then provide the just and reasonable rate support, which is necessary to enable CUC to provide reliable electric service.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that CPUC will conduct a public hearing, which will commence at 6:00 p.m. on December 12, 2008 at the Senate chamber in the Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building on Capitol Hill to receive Georgetown's report and CUC's position regarding the report. CPUC will deliberate on its hearing examiner's report of the investigation and hearing at a business meeting, which will be conducted at 6:00 p.m. on December 19, 2008 at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce Conference Room. The hearing examiner's report, which will be filed on December 16, 2008, will also be available for public inspection at the Law Offices of Viola Alepuyo, 2nd Floor, J.E. Tenorio Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan, CNMI 96950.

CPUC welcomes the public's attendance at the hearing and will welcome public comments at the conclusion of the hearing, which will be entertained in the order registered with CPUC staff prior to the commencement of the hearing. Persons who desire to participate in the hearing pursuant to 4 CMC § 8409(j) should on or before December 8, 2008 file with CPUC at the Law Offices of Viola Alepuyo, 2nd Floor, J.E. Tenorio Bld, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950 an application and offer of proof in accordance with § 8409(j) and CPUC Procedural Rule 11(c).

Further information about the hearing and the public's right to participate must be made in writing and addressed to the CPUC and dropped off or mailed to Law Offices of Viola Alepuyo, 2nd Floor, J.E. Tenorio Bld, Gualo Rai, P.O. Box 5506 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950.

# Zoning issues fact sheet to guide businesses

The Zoning Office wants to help adult business owners understand how the Saipan Zoning Law affects their businesses. Staff have prepared a fact sheet: Adult Businesses on Saipan—Frequently Asked Questions.

The Fact Sheet will be translated into Japanese, Korean, and Chinese. You can get a copy of the Fact Sheet at the Zoning office in

Joeten DanDan or at their website, [www.zoning.mp.gov](http://www.zoning.mp.gov).

Adult businesses include many types of businesses: adult cabaret, adult motel, adult motion picture theater, adult theater, escort agency, massage parlor, nude model studio, sex shop and sexual encounter center. Not all massage parlors are defined as adult businesses; pro-

fessionally licensed or certified businesses which offer legitimate techniques of physicians, chiropractors, physical therapists, massage therapists, or athletic trainers are not considered adult businesses. Massage facilities located in hotels that have more than 20 rooms are exempted from the Saipan Zoning Law. There are other factors which may affect the definition

of an adult business.

As of Aug. 1, 2008, all existing adult businesses on Saipan are required to meet the building and sign design requirements of the Saipan Zoning Law.

As of September 2009, adult businesses will not be allowed to operate anywhere except in an adult business overlay zoning district. Existing adult businesses will be allowed to

request an extension based on their financial situation.

The adult business overlay zoning district is the area within 200 feet of each side of the centerline of Chalan Pale Arnold (Middle Road) from Chalan Msgr. Guerrero north to a line extending along the center of Commonwealth Avenue (south side of Sugar King Park).

A new adult business will be permitted only in the adult business overlay zone.

Owners of adult businesses

should contact the Zoning Office for help in identifying changes to comply with requirements for outdoor appearance and signs. By registering as an adult business with the Zoning Office, staff will be able to contact you with future information necessary for your business. Businesses wanting to continue as an adult business after September 2009 are advised to start looking for a location in the adult business overlay zone. **(Zoning)**

## iConnect donates 10 phones to DPS

iConnect is once again partnering with the CNMI Department of Public Safety in its efforts to bring awareness to the public about the dangers of driving under the influence during the Holiday Season.

iConnect has donated 10 push-to-talk/cellular phones for DPS to use during their education and enforcement efforts during this time. DPS will use the units while

conducting sobriety checkpoints and deploying designated drivers throughout the holiday season.

iConnect and DPS would like to remind everyone to have a fun holiday season but if you've had too much to drink, have a designated driver on hand to drive you home or call DPS and they'll come pick you and give you a ride home. If you'd like to

know more about the program call Leiann Ogumuro at DPS 664-9135. **(PR)**

From left, Hans Mickelson, iConnect general manager; Ivy Manalo, iConnect customer service; Officer J.J. Cabrera, iConnect customer service Tina Paragados, and 3D chair Officer Eric David.

ICONNECT



### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

#### DEQ brigade sets Marine Beach cleanup

The Division of Environmental Quality cleanup brigade will be at it again, picking up trash at Marine Beach in Kagman.

If you would like to volunteer your time to clean and beautify the island, meet with the brigade volunteers on Saturday, Dec. 6, 2008, at 8am. Volunteers will clean until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a green brigade t-shirt.

A total of 114 volunteers removed 780 lbs of debris from Tank Beach on Nov. 1. The DEQ cleanup brigade began in 1996 and continues to maintain clean, healthy beaches.

For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500. **(DEQ)**

#### OES PTSA meeting

The PTSA officers of the Oleai Elementary School would like to inform the parents and guardians of Oleai Elementary School students that there will be a PTSA meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2008, 6:15pm, in the school cafeteria. Everyone is encouraged to attend. **(PR)**

#### CNMI WIC moves to new location

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program under the CNMI Department of Public Health would like to inform the public and WIC participants that the program has relocated its clinic to Building N-13, Upper

Navy Hill (behind Brilliant Star School; follow the blue WIC signs). For any questions, call 664-4067. **(PR)**

#### Family Hope Center relocates

Effective Dec. 1, 2008, the Family Hope Center will

relocate the Center to the office of the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc., located on Middle

Road, approximately 100 yards north of the Gualo Rai traffic light intersection.

For more information, con-

tact the center at 664-7041 & 7044 or CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities at 664-7000/3/5/42. **(PR)**

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Facsimile: 233-0090

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF  
LPP MORTGAGE, LTD.

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT  
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN  
MARIANA ISLANDS**

|                                       |   |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| LPP MORTGAGE, LTD.,<br>Plaintiff,     | ) | CIVIL ACTION<br>NO. 06-0354                     |
| -v-                                   | ) |   |
| JAMES A. ADA AND<br>ELIZABETH S. ADA, | ) | <b>FIRST<br/>AMENDED<br/>NOTICE<br/>OF SALE</b> |
| Defendants.                           | ) |   |

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court on June 5, 2007, in this matter, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interest of defendants James A. Ada and Elizabeth S. Ada in and to the following properties located in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands:

**TRACT 22512-2 AND TRACT 22512-1-R1 (MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS TRACT 22512-2 AND TRACT 22512-1-R1, SAN VICENTE VILLAGE, SAIPAN, MP 96950),** containing an area of 2,592 square meters, more or less, as shown in the subdivision Survey plan of Tract 22512, DLS Check No. 211/92, recorded at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office on March 18, 1992 as file no. 92-908, Book 5, Page 162 and in the subdivision Survey Plat of Tract 22512-1, DLS Check No. 2055/96, recorded at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office on February 9, 1996 as File No. 96-354, Book 8, Page 10.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on December 10, 2008, at the hour of 3:30 p.m., at the law offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC, 2nd Floor, Tan Marikita Bldg., Beach Road at Cpl. Derence Jack Street, Garapan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Inspection of Property. It is the responsibility of each bidder to inspect the property prior to the sale. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Warranties and Covenants. All property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition, and at its current location. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability, and/or fitness for any purpose whatsoever, all of which warranties and covenants are hereby expressly disclaimed. Neither the undersigned nor the plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant, express or implied, with respect to the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither the undersigned nor the plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any other remedy on account thereof.

**Conduct of Sale.**

a. Reserve. The auction sale may be held with reserve. The reserve price on any property offered for sale may or may not be disclosed to bidders, in the sole discretion of the undersigned.

b. Rights and duties of auctioneer. Consistent with the laws, customs, and usages of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: (1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted; (2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and (3) to reject, on behalf of the seller, any or all bids, for any reason.

c. Bids. Bids may be submitted in advance for any or all of the property listed in this Notice. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the law offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC, 2 d Floor, Tan Marikita Bldg., Beach Road at Cpl. Derence Jack Street, Garapan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The bidder assumes all risk of non-delivery, late delivery, or mis-delivery of bids. Any person, including the plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.

d. Disputes. The undersigned may resubmit any property listed in this Notice if a dispute arises as to any bid thereon.

**Enforcement of Auction Sale.**

a. Deposit. Every successful bidder shall pay to the undersigned a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price immediately after the sale is consummated. Payment shall be in cash or by certified check. The balance must be paid to the plaintiff, in care of Mailman & Kara, LLC, within three (3) days from the date of sale, in cash or by certified check. If the balance is not so paid, plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages, and will again offer the property for sale.

b. Memorandum of Sale. If requested by the undersigned, every successful bidder must sign a Memorandum of Sale, immediately after the sale of any property is struck off at auction.

c. Court Approval. Every sale may be subject to approval by the Court. The auctioneer makes no warranties or promises with respect to court approval of the sale, including but not limited to the time in which such approval may be granted. No delay in the granting of court approval shall be ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any successful bidder. The successful bidder will be promptly notified if and when court approval is granted.

Change of Terms and Conditions. The undersigned and the plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

DATED, this 21st day of November, 2008:

/s/ RONNIE D. HODGES, Auctioneer

BRUCE L. MAILMAN  
CNMI BAR ASSN #F0153  
MAILMAN & KARA, LLC  
PMB 238, Box 10,000,  
Saipan, MP 96950-8900  
Telephone: 233-0081  
Facsimile: 233-0090

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF  
LPP MORTGAGE, LTD.

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT  
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

|   |   |                             |
|---|---|-----------------------------|
| LPP MORTGAGE, LTD.,<br>Plaintiff,               | ) | CIVIL ACTION<br>NO. 08-0111 |
| -v-   | ) |                             |
| VICENTE I. TEREGEYO<br>JING YU GUAN STEPHANSON, | ) | <b>NOTICE<br/>OF SALE</b>   |
| Defendants.                                     | ) |                             |

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court on November 13, 2008, in this matter, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interest of defendants Vicente I. Teregeyo and Jing Yu Guan Stephanson in and to the following properties located in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands:

**LOT 005 1 320,** containing an area of 965 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat Number 005 107 dated September 30, 1983.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on December 10, 2008, at the hour of 3:30 p.m., at the law offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC, 2nd Floor, Tan Marikita Bldg., Beach Road at Cpl. Derence Jack Street, Garapan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Inspection of Property. It is the responsibility of each bidder to inspect the property prior to the sale. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Warranties and Covenants. All property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition, and at its current location. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability, and/or fitness for any purpose whatsoever, all of which warranties and covenants are hereby expressly disclaimed. Neither the undersigned nor the plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant, express or implied, with respect to the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither the undersigned nor the plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any other remedy on account thereof.

**Conduct of Sale.**

a. Reserve. The auction sale may be held with reserve. The reserve price on any property offered for sale may or may not be disclosed to bidders, in the sole discretion of the undersigned.

b. Rights and duties of auctioneer. Consistent with the laws, customs, and usages of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: (1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted; (2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and (3) to reject, on behalf of the seller, any or all bids, for any reason.

c. Bids. Bids may be submitted in advance for any or all of the property listed in this Notice. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the law offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC, 2 d Floor, Tan Marikita Bldg., Beach Road at Cpl. Derence Jack Street, Garapan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The bidder assumes all risk of non-delivery, late delivery, or mis-delivery of bids. Any person, including the plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.

d. Disputes. The undersigned may resubmit any property listed in this Notice if a dispute arises as to any bid thereon.

**Enforcement of Auction Sale.**

a. Deposit. Every successful bidder shall pay to the undersigned a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price immediately after the sale is consummated. Payment shall be in cash or by certified check. The balance must be paid to the plaintiff, in care of Mailman & Kara, LLC, within three (3) days from the date of sale, in cash or by certified check. If the balance is not so paid, plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages, and will again offer the property for sale.

b. Memorandum of Sale. If requested by the undersigned, every successful bidder must sign a Memorandum of Sale, immediately after the sale of any property is struck off at auction.

c. Court Approval. Every sale may be subject to approval by the Court. The auctioneer makes no warranties or promises with respect to court approval of the sale, including but not limited to the time in which such approval may be granted. No delay in the granting of court approval shall be ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any successful bidder. The successful bidder will be promptly notified if and when court approval is granted.

Change of Terms and Conditions. The undersigned and the plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

DATED, this 17th day of November, 2008:

/s/ RONNIE D. HODGES, Auctioneer

# Legislature to create Guam buildup group

The Legislature is forming a group to study the planned military expansion on Guam and to help prepare the Commonwealth for the multibillion-dollar effort.

House Speaker Arnold Palacios said Monday that the “focus group” will consist of three members from each house of the Legislature.

The creation of the group follows the recent adoption of a resolution by the House of Representatives and the Senate. According to the joint resolution, the group will have “a direct dialogue with representatives of the United States Armed Forces to ensure that the Commonwealth is informed of all matters related to the military expansion in the Marianas.”

The programmed military buildup in Guam involves the transfer of some 8,000 Marines and their dependents from Okinawa. The program involves using Tinian—and possibly Pagan and other parts of the CNMI’s northern islands—as a military training site.

On Feb. 22, 2007, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial formed the CNMI’s Military Task Force. A few

months later, Fitial appointed retired Lt. General Wallace “Chip” Gregson, who served in the United States Marine Corps for 37 years before retiring in 2005, to serve as his special adviser for military affairs.

In the resolution, the lawmakers indicated that the military task force has been inactive, and that the Legislature must jump in to help prepare the CNMI for the military buildup.

In a recent meeting with the Legislature, the Joint Guam Program Office reported that the U.S. Department of Defense expects to have its draft master plan for the CNMI’s part in the military buildup by this month. Citing experience with the Guam master plan, which he said has gone through about five revisions so far, JGPO director David Bice said the CNMI’s draft master plan, once released, would be subject to many changes depending on public input and other factors.

The draft environmental impact study for the military buildup is expected to be out early spring next year, Bice added.

(*Agnes E. Donato*)

## Man in ‘ice’ case pleads guilty

A man who is facing charges in federal court for selling methamphetamine or “ice” near a school on Tinian entered a guilty plea yesterday.

Ying Min Jin signed a plea agreement with the U.S. government and pleaded guilty to one count of distribution of a controlled substance near a school.


U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson accepted Jin’s plea and set the sentencing for March 10, 2009.

Munson sent Jin back into the custody of the U.S. Marshal.


A Drug Enforcement Administration agent stated in his report that on Aug. 27, 2008 a “confidential source” was able to purchase \$140 worth of “ice” from Jin inside a poker arcade on Tinian. Ppolice officers then entered the establishment where they arrested the defendant.

The agent said the officers recovered 2.6 grams of “ice” from Jin’s wallet and front pants pocket.

The arcade was within 1,000 feet of the Tinian Grace Christian Academy. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
CNMI GOVERNMENT**



**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
RFP09-COURTS-014**

SUBMISSION: DECEMBER 19, 2008 • TIME: 10:00 AM

**“JANITORIAL SERVICES FOR THE GUMA HUSTISIA/  
IIMWAL AWEWEE/HOUSE OF JUSTICE”**


THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE SUPREME COURT, CLERK OF COURT, AT THE FIRST FLOOR OF THE GUMA HUSTISIA/IIMWAL AWEWEE/HOUSE OF JUSTICE IN SUSUPE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**A PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON DECEMBER 05, 2008, LOCAL TIME, 10:30 A.M., AT THE GUMA HUSTISIA CONFERENCE ROOM. ANY QUESTIONS OR INQUIRIES SHALL BE DIRECTED TO MS. TRACY M. GUERRERO, DIRECTOR OF COURTS AT (670) 236-9800 OR BY FAX TO (670) 236-9702 NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 10, 2008, CLOSE OF BUSINESS.**


**PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERRED IS CLAIMED.**

/s/ MIGUEL S. DEMAPAN  
Chief Justice

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
Director, P&S



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
CNMI GOVERNMENT**



**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
RFPO9-THC-001**

SUBMISSION: DECEMBER 29, 2008      TIME: 3:00 P.M.

**“MANPOWER SERVICES FOR TINIAN HEALTH CENTER”**

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF SERVICES MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**A PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON DECEMBER 12, 2008 AT 10:00 A.M. AT THE MAYOR'S OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM, SAN JOSE VILLAGE, TINIAN.**

**ANY QUESTION REGARDING THIS RFP SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO HENRY ENNEST U. HOFSCHEIDER, RHD-TINIAN HEALTH CENTER BY FAX TO (670) 433-9247 OR BY E-MAIL TO the\_director@hotmail.com NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 16, 2008, CLOSE OF BUSINESS.**

**PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERRED IS CLAIMED.**

/s/ JOSE P. SAN NICOLAS  
MAYOR OF TINIAN & AGUIGUAN

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
DIRECTOR, P&S

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

### December 3, 1998

#### Pay cuts loom large

The Legislature is set to look into an administration proposal that will reduce salaries of nearly 5,000 government employees by five to 10 percent in a frantic effort to stretch its dwindling budget and prevent huge shortfall in the next few months, officials said. Some members of both the Senate and House of Representatives met yesterday with Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio to discuss ways on how to widen the current austerity measures and boost the depleting local coffers amid the worsening economic crisis in the Northern Marianas. Senate Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez said lawmakers will try to work out a mechanism to implement the pay cuts on all government personnel, including civil service and contractual employees.

#### CPA: Landing fees cut risks bond repayment

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has warned the Legislature against pushing the agency to implement a 50 percent reduction in landing fees saying it would jeopardize the payment of the \$53 million revenue bonds. Amid the continuous plunge of the island’s tourism economy as a result of Asia’s financial crisis, the ports authority would have to increase landing fees to be able to meet debt service, operating expenses and complete capital improvements already in progress, said Carlos H. Salas, executive director of CPA. “If CPA does not raise fees to meet debt service requirements and expenses, CPA will be in technical default of the bonds inviting a wide range of legal problems,” he said in a letter sent to House Speaker Diego T Benavente.

### December 3, 1999

#### Continental apologizes: Omission was ‘unintentional’

Admitting the exclusion of Northern Marianas in one of its marketing promotions was an “unintentional omission,” an official of Continental Micronesia has downplayed the strong reaction by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio as he assuaged fears of its impact on the local tourism industry. Wally Dias, staff to the vice president for sales and promotion of the Guam-based carrier, said Continental continues to work with the Marianas Visitors Authority in attracting tourists to the island, contrary to reports that it is abandoning the CNMI. “This omission was a simple, unintentional oversight and in no way represents a change in Continental Micronesia’s policy of strongly supporting CNMI tourism. Continental Micronesia apologizes for the unfortunate omission,” he said in a statement.

#### NMHC offers help to FAS citizens

Due to increase in delinquency of housing payments by citizens of the Freely Associated States, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation has moved to assist them by carrying out programs that will eventually make them self-sufficient. According to Mary Lou S. Ada, executive director of NMHC, the housing office has seen a dramatic rise in the inability of FAS citizens to pay subsidized housing due to a recent federal court ruling which disqualified non-U.S. citizens from availing such benefit.

### December 3, 2001

#### Visitor arrivals drop 48.4 percent

Visitor arrivals to the Northern Marianas dropped by 48.4 percent in October compared with the same month last year, as the CNMI tourism industry reels from the adverse impacts of the September 11 terrorist attacks on the US. The Northern Marianas played host to 20,858 tourists in October 2001, almost 20,000 lower than the 40,423 visitors reported in the same month last year. Marianas Visitors Authority Managing Director Perry Tenorio said security worries caused by the crash attacks, coupled with economic uncertainties dampened visitor arrivals from Japan, Korean, Taiwan, and the United States.

#### United Nations contacts CNMI about Afghanistan

The United Nations’ High Commission on Refugees has already made initial contact with the CNMI government Wednesday last week, with a proposal for a teleconference on Friday midnight. Although no confirmation could be obtained as of press time whether the teleconference pushed through, administration officials believe the matter for discussion may revolve around the situation in Afghanistan. According to an administration official, the UN High Commission on Refugees wanted to talk to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio and the CNMI Department of Labor and Immigration to discuss a matter pertaining to Afghanistan.

Christmas in the Marianas set for Dec. 20



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas in the Marianas celebration will be held on Dec. 20.

With the yuletide season just around the corner, the Marianas Visitors Authority, in collaboration with the Marianas Walking Association, has set the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas in the Marianas celebration for Dec. 20.

The public celebration will

kick-off with a 5-km/10-km Health Walk beginning at American Memorial Park. Registration will start at 4pm at the AMP parking lot, with the walk beginning promptly at 5pm. The walking event will include a long course through Saipan's

main tourist district and along the island's scenic beaches south to the MVA office, while the short course will take participants along the same path to Triple J Motors and back. The first 100 participants to complete the walk will get a free T-shirt to

commemorate this event.

Following the Christmas walk, the celebration will continue into the night with a Christmas parade with floats, a Christmas costume show, and Christmas caroling. All the events are school competitions. The Float Contest assembly begins at the Carolinian Affairs Office grounds at 5pm, with the parade commencing at 5:30pm and heading north along Beach Road to American Memorial Park. During the parade, the

floats will be judged as they pass through Garapan.

After the parade, the children will have an opportunity to strut on the catwalk as schools show off their best costumes. Schools will be judged based on originality, relevance to the theme, performance, choreography, audience participation, costume props, and recycled wear.

The Caroling Contest will officially begin at 6:30pm at the American Memorial Park and will end at 9pm.

Marianas Visitors Authority and the Marianas Walking Association invites everyone to join this year's Christmas in the Marianas celebration and to spread the goodwill of Christmas to visitors and community members, alike.

For more information about the annual Christmas in the Marianas events, contact Gordon I. Marciano at (670) 287-1195 or at [gordon@pdisaipan.com](mailto:gordon@pdisaipan.com) or Frank Tudela at (670) 664-3200 or at [ftudela@my-marianas.com](mailto:ftudela@my-marianas.com). (PR)

Deadline nears for part time-scholarship application

Only a few days remain for full-time employees to submit an application for the newly created part-time student scholarship offered by the CNMI Scholarship Office. The scholarship is available to private and public sector employees who want to enroll as part-time students for the Northern Marianas College's Spring 2009 semester.

Scholarship applicants must follow the same requirements as the Educational Assistance Program Rules and Regulations. Applications must be submitted by Dec. 15, 2008 to the CNMI Scholarship Office. The funds will be available on a first-come, first-served basis, which means that the first 312 applicants who submit completed application packets (class schedule may be submitted at a later date) and

who meet statutory requirements will be awarded.

Part-time applicants must submit the following to the CNMI Scholarship Office:

- 2008-2009 application by December 15, 2008
- Most recent official transcript
- Copy of passport and/or birth certificate with valid picture ID
- Acceptance Letter
- Provide proof of CNMI residency for 2006 and 2007
- Submit employment verification showing full-time employment in public or private sector
- Must be enrolled for 6-11 credits and maintain the same number of credits
- Must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.25 on a 4.0 scale

Applicants have until Feb. 28, 2009, to submit supporting documents. But once again, it is on a first-come, first-serve basis, so applicants are encouraged to complete their application packet as soon as possible.

Copies of the application form, the rules and regulations, and the memorandum of agreement can be downloaded by logging on to [www.cnmischolarship.com](http://www.cnmischolarship.com), obtained from the CNMI Scholarship Office or can be downloaded from NMC's website at [www.nmcnet.edu](http://www.nmcnet.edu). For more information and to learn about other applicable requirements, contact the CNMI Scholarship Office at 664-4750.

For more information about NMC Degree and Certificate Programs, log on to [www.nmcnet.edu](http://www.nmcnet.edu). (NMC)



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION  
SCHEDULE OF ELECTRIC CHARGES AND RATES  
FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2008

| CUSTOMER CLASSIFICATIONS   | MONTHLY CUSTOMER CHARGES (FIXED) | RATES PER KILOWATT-HOUR (kWh)                                   |   |   |
|--|----------------------------------|---|---|---|
|  |                                  | ELECTRIC NON-FUEL RATES (FIXED)                                 | ELECTRIC FUEL RATES (FLUCTUATES)                                | TOTAL RATES PER kWh   |
| <b>RESIDENTIAL</b><br>1. First 500 kWh (1 To 500)<br>2. Second 500 kWh (501 To 1,000)<br>3. Next 1,000 kWh (1,001 To 2,000)<br>4. All kWh After 2,000 (Over 2,000) | <b>\$ 5.60</b>                   | <b>\$ 0.016</b><br><b>0.066</b><br><b>0.086</b><br><b>0.127</b> | <b>\$ 0.207</b><br><b>0.207</b><br><b>0.207</b><br><b>0.207</b> | <b>\$ 0.223</b><br><b>0.273</b><br><b>0.293</b><br><b>0.334</b> |
| <b>COMMERCIAL</b><br>(All kWh Billed)  | <b>\$ 7.67</b>                   | <b>\$ 0.086</b>   | <b>\$ 0.207</b>   | <b>\$ 0.293</b>   |
| <b>GOVERNMENT</b><br>(All kWh Billed)  | <b>\$ 7.67</b>                   | <b>\$ 0.091</b>   | <b>\$ 0.207</b>   | <b>\$ 0.298</b>   |
| <b>NON-CONFORMING LOAD</b><br>(All kWh Billed)   | <b>\$ 56.00</b>                  | <b>\$ 0.222</b>   | <b>\$ 0.207</b>   | <b>\$ 0.429</b>   |

HISTORY OF ELECTRIC FUEL RATES:

|                                  |          |  |          |
|----------------------------------|----------|--|----------|
| <b>JANUARY 2007</b>              | \$ 0.196 | <b>NOVEMBER 2007 (ALL OTHERS)</b>        | \$ 0.258 |
| <b>FEBRUARY 2007</b>             | \$ 0.188 | <b>DECEMBER 2007</b>                     | \$ 0.258 |
| <b>MARCH 2007</b>                | \$ 0.188 | <b>JANUARY 2008</b>                      | \$ 0.258 |
| <b>APRIL 2007</b>                | \$ 0.191 | <b>FEBRUARY 2008</b>                     | \$ 0.253 |
| <b>MAY 2007</b>                  | \$ 0.222 | <b>MARCH 2008 (RES. ONLY)</b>            | \$ 0.176 |
| <b>JUNE 2007</b>                 | \$ 0.221 | <b>MARCH 2008 (ALL OTHERS)</b>           | \$ 0.288 |
| <b>JULY 2007</b>                 | \$ 0.223 | <b>APRIL 2008 (RES. ONLY)</b>            | \$ 0.176 |
| <b>AUGUST 2007</b>               | \$ 0.223 | <b>APRIL 2008 (ALL OTHERS)</b>           | \$ 0.327 |
| <b>SEPTEMBER 2007</b>            | \$ 0.228 | <b>MAY 2008 (RES. ONLY, 5/1 - 2/08)</b>  | \$ 0.176 |
| <b>OCTOBER 2007</b>              | \$ 0.228 | <b>MAY 2008 (RES. ONLY, 5/3 - 31/08)</b> | \$ 0.357 |
| (RES. ONLY, 10/1 - 3/07)         |          | <b>MAY 2008 (ALL OTHERS)</b>             | \$ 0.357 |
| <b>OCTOBER 2007</b>              | \$ 0.176 | <b>JUNE 2008</b>                         | \$ 0.387 |
| (RES. ONLY, 10/4 - 31/07)        |          | <b>JULY 2008</b>                         | \$ 0.413 |
| <b>OCTOBER 2007 (ALL OTHERS)</b> | \$ 0.228 | <b>AUGUST 2008</b>                       | \$ 0.413 |
| <b>NOVEMBER 2007</b>             | \$ 0.176 | <b>SEPTEMBER 2008</b>                    | \$ 0.362 |
| (RES. ONLY, 11/1/07)             |          | <b>OCTOBER 2008</b>                      | \$ 0.337 |
| <b>NOVEMBER 2007</b>             | \$ 0.258 | <b>NOVEMBER 2008</b>                     | \$ 0.270 |
| (RES. ONLY, 11/2 - 30/07)        |          |  |          |

SHIPPING SCHEDULE



MARIANA  
EXPRESS LINES PTE. LTD.

| Outbound from Asia | Voyage No. | ETD Jakarta | ETD Bangkok | ETD P. Kelang | ETD Melbourne | ETD Singapore | ETD Hochiminh | ETD Busan | ETD Kobe  | ETD Shanghai | ETD Auckland | ETD Manila | ETD Hongkong | ETD Kaoshiung | ETD Naha  |
|--------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|---------------|-----------|
| MELL SINGAPORE     | 018E       | 11/22 Sat   | 11/20 Thu   | 11/20 Thu     | 11/18 Tue     | 11/15 Sat     | 11/28 Fri     | 11/24 Mon | 11/23 Sun | 11/16 Sun    | 11/16 Sun    | 11/24 Mon  | 11/28 Fri    | 11/29 Sat     | 12/2 Tue  |
| STADT HAMBURG      | 026E       | 11/29 Sat   | 11/27 Thu   | 11/27 Thu     | 11/25 Tue     | 11/22 Sat     | 12/5 Fri      | 12/1 Mon  | 11/30 Sun | 11/23 Sun    | 11/23 Sun    | 12/1 Mon   | 12/5 Fri     | 12/6 Sat      | 12/9 Tue  |
| MELL SENOKO        | 014E       | 12/6 Sat    | 12/4 Thu    | 12/4 Thu      | 12/2 Tue      | 11/29 Sat     | 12/12 Fri     | 12/8 Mon  | 12/7 Sun  | 11/30 Sun    | 11/30 Sun    | 12/8 Mon   | 12/12 Fri    | 12/13 Sat     | 12/16 Tue |
| MELL SINGAPORE     | 019E       | 12/13 Sat   | 12/11 Thu   | 12/11 Thu     | 12/9 Tue      | 12/6 Sat      | 12/19 Fri     | 12/15 Mon | 12/14 Sun | 12/7 Sun     | 12/7 Sun     | 12/15 Mon  | 12/19 Fri    | 12/20 Sat     | 12/23 Tue |
| STADT HAMBURG      | 027E       | 12/20 Sat   | 12/18 Thu   | 12/18 Thu     | 12/16 Tue     | 12/13 Sat     | 12/26 Fri     | 12/22 Mon | 12/21 Sun | 12/14 Sun    | 12/14 Sun    | 12/22 Mon  | 12/26 Fri    | 12/27 Sat     | SKIP      |
| MELL SENOKO        | 015E       | 12/27 Sat   | 12/25 Thu   | 12/25 Thu     | 12/23 Tue     | 12/20 Sat     | 1/2 Fri       | 12/29 Mon | 12/28 Sun | 12/21 Sun    | 12/21 Sun    | 12/29 Mon  | 1/2 Fri      | 1/3 Sat       | 1/6 Tue   |

| Inbound from Asia | Voyage No. | ETA Guam  | ETA Saipan | ETA Yap   | ETA Koror | ETA GenSan | ETA Davao | ETA Cebu  | ETA Hongkong | ETA Kaoshiung | ETA Busan | ETA Yokohama | ETA Manila | ETA Singapore |
|-------------------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|---------------|-----------|--------------|------------|---------------|
| MELL SINGAPORE    | 018E       | 12/6 Sat  | 12/7 Sun   | 12/7 Sun  | 12/9 Tue  | 12/11 Thu  | 12/13 Sat | 12/14 Sun | 12/16 Tue    | 12/19 Fri     | 12/20 Sat | 12/25 Thu    | 1/13 Tue   | 1/11 Sun      |
| STADT HAMBURG     | 026E       | 12/13 Sat | 12/14 Sun  | 12/14 Sun | SKIP      | 12/18 Thu  | 12/20 Sat | 12/21 Sun | 12/23 Tue    | 12/26 Fri     | 12/27 Sat | 1/1 Thu      | 1/20 Tue   | 1/18 Sun      |
| MELL SENOKO       | 014E       | 12/20 Sat | 12/21 Sun  | 12/21 Sun | 12/23 Tue | 12/25 Thu  | 12/27 Sat | 12/28 Sun | 12/30 Tue    | 1/2 Fri       | 1/3 Sat   | 1/8 Thu      | 1/27 Tue   | 1/25 Sun      |
| MELL SINGAPORE    | 019E       | 12/27 Sat | 12/28 Sun  | 12/28 Sun | SKIP      | 1/1 Thu    | 1/3 Sat   | 1/4 Sun   | 1/6 Tue      | 1/9 Fri       | 1/10 Sat  | 1/15 Thu     | 2/3 Tue    | 2/1 Sun       |
| STADT HAMBURG     | 027E       | 1/3 Sat   | 1/4 Sun    | SKIP      | 1/6 Tue   | 1/8 Thu    | 1/10 Sat  | 1/11 Sun  | 1/13 Tue     | 1/16 Fri      | 1/17 Sat  | 1/22 Thu     | 2/10 Tue   | 2/8 Sun       |
| MELL SENOKO       | 015E       | 1/10 Sat  | 1/11 Sun   | 1/11 Sun  | SKIP      | 1/15 Thu   | 1/17 Sat  | 1/18 Sun  | 1/20 Tue     | 1/23 Fri      | 1/24 Sat  | 1/29 Thu     | 2/17 Tue   | 2/15 Sun      |

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# Opinion

Hafa Adahi

## Saipan Tribune

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## EDITORIAL

### Road map in Iraq

**B**arack Obama recently reiterated his campaign promise to order up a plan for the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq. But the Iraqi parliament has beaten him to it. Its ratification Thursday of a new bilateral military agreement with the United States not only establishes a timetable for the redeployment of American troops but delimits the missions they can undertake between now and the end of 2011. Mr. Obama has always said that his strategy was aimed at forcing Iraqi leaders to take responsibility for their country and its security. In adopting and ratifying the accord, the government and parliament have taken a major step toward that goal.

By now Mr. Obama and most other opponents of the military surge launched by President Bush nearly two years ago have acknowledged its success in greatly reducing violence around Iraq. The completion of the Status of Forces Agreement and the accompanying strategic partnership accord with the United States shows how far the political system also has come. Two years ago, Mr. Bush's national security adviser wrote a memo questioning whether Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki was able or even willing to assert his authority. But Mr. Maliki has been both skillful and forceful in extracting concessions from the Bush administration—such as the 2011 withdrawal date—and winning agreement from Sunni as well as Shiite and Kurdish legislators.

That those politicians were willing to publicly support three more years of American troops in Iraq just weeks before a hotly contested provincial election was another sign that the new democratic system is gaining its footing. Legislators gave themselves an out by requiring a national referendum next year that could allow Iraqi voters to advance the American withdrawal date by a year. But that flinch is less significant than the willingness of the government and parliament to stand up to pressure from Iran, which lobbied heavily against the Iraqi-U.S. accord, as well as to the domestic opposition of the Sadr movement.

The Bush administration worked patiently and tirelessly to negotiate the new agreement, which will have the effect of removing Iraq from United Nations supervision on Jan. 1. Having all but destroyed his presidency through mismanagement of the war, Mr. Bush can now fairly argue as he leaves office that his successor will inherit an Iraqi mission that has been stabilized both militarily and politically. That's not the same thing as the "victory" Mr. Bush has often spoken of; Iraq could still unravel if its leaders or the Obama administration act unwisely. There is now, however, a workable road map for winding down the U.S. troop presence in the country and for consolidating the new political system. Mr. Obama will receive this framework from the president and the Iraqi government he has spent the last two years campaigning against. Though we don't expect him to say so, Mr. Obama is fortunate that he was wrong, both about the surge and about the capacity of Iraq's leaders.

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## Terrorism in India has many faces

**I**f, as seems likely, last week's terrible events in Mumbai were the work of Islamic terrorists, that's more bad news for India's minority Muslim population. Never mind that the perpetrators were probably funded from outside India, in connection with the ongoing conflict over Kashmir. The attacks will feed a powerful stereotype of the violent and untrustworthy Muslim, bent on religious conquest, who can never be a good democratic citizen. Such stereotypes shadow the lives of Indian Muslims, who compose 13.5 percent of the population.

But it's important to consider Indian terrorism in a broader context.

Terrorism in India is by no means peculiar to Muslims. A string of recent incidents has been linked to Islamic groups, most of these with foreign ties and pertaining to Kashmir. The bloodiest recent example of terrorism in India, however, was the slaughter of as many as 2,000 Muslim civilians by Hindu right-wing mobs in the state of Gujarat over several months in 2002.

This horrendous pogrom was portrayed at the time as retaliation for an alleged Muslim torching of a train car carrying mostly Hindu passengers. Two independent inquiries since have concluded that the fire was, instead, a tragic accident caused by passengers' kerosene stoves.

But even if that was not known at the time, most of the people killed—or raped or beaten—lived far from the original incident and could have had no connection to it. Moreover, there was copious evidence of pre-planning: Hindu right-wing groups had kept lists of Muslim dwellings and businesses.

Evidence that Gujarat's state government egged-on the perpetrators was also overwhelming and led to the U.S. State Department in 2005 denying a visa to Narendra Modi, Gujarat's chief minister. Recently, the Indian investigative journal *Tehelka* uncovered even more proof of government complicity in the murderous, anti-Muslim attacks. A *Tehelka* reporter using a hidden camera interviewed participants in the Gujarat violence, who described how bombs were manufactured in factories owned by members of the Hindu right; how arms were smuggled from other states; how the police were instructed to look the other way.

One leader of the Bajrang Dal (a paramilitary Hindu right-wing group) described his own role with pride: "There was this pregnant woman, I slit her open....They shouldn't even be allowed to breed. I say that even today. Whoever they are, women, children, whoever, nothing to be done with them but cut them down. Thrash them, slash them, burn the bastards....The idea is, don't keep them alive at all; after that, everything is ours."

The revelation that members of the Hindu right have embraced ethno-religious cleansing should amaze nobody. Since the 1930s,

By **MARTHA NUSSBAUM**  
Special to the Los Angeles Times

*Nussbaum is a professor of law and ethics at the University of Chicago. Her books include The Clash Within: Democracy, Religious Violence, and India's Future (2007) and Liberty of Conscience: In Defense of America's Tradition of Religious Equality (2008).*



their movement has insisted that India is for Hindus, and that both Muslims and Christians are foreigners who should have second-class status in the nation.

This year, in the eastern state of Orissa, members of the Bajrang Dal have murdered scores of Christians who refused to reconvert to Hinduism. (Most Indian Christians are descendants of converts, often from the lowest Hindu castes.) Peaceful villages have been reduced to ashes; a church-run orphanage was torched; dozens of churches have been destroyed; missionaries and priests have been murdered in cold blood. Thousands have been forced to flee their homes, and at least 30,000 are homeless. The rallying cry: "Kill Christians and destroy their institutions."

In August, the Catholic bishops of India closed Catholic schools across the country "as a protest against the atrocities on the Christian community and other innocent people." Such actions, aimed at transforming India's pluralistic democracy into an ethnocentric regime, pose a grave threat to India's future.

All of this is terrorism, but most of it doesn't reach the world's front pages. When it does make it into newspapers outside India, the word "terrorism" is rarely used. The result is a perception, in India and abroad, that Muslims are the bad guys in every incident of terrorist violence.

Such stereotypes are so prevalent that many state bar associations in India refuse to defend Muslims accused of complicity in terrorism—despite the fact that India's constitution guarantees all accused a cost-free defense.

Meanwhile, Muslim youths are often rounded up on suspicion of terrorism with little or no evidence, an analogue to the current ugly phenomenon of racial profiling in the United States.

Some Muslims are criminals. But this does not justify demonizing Muslims, any more than the violent acts of the Hindu right justify stereotyping all Hindus as rapists and murderers. Let's go after criminals with determination, good evidence and fair trials, and let's stop targeting people based on their religious affiliation.

**EDITORIAL POLICY** The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com); or through our website at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

# Discussions from the fringe

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

*What good would I be serving  
if I didn't stir things up?  
And add a new perspective  
to the half-filled-empty cup?*

*What better could I offer  
if the path I tread's the same?  
The known and worn and tried and true  
the same old lame old game?*

I have to believe that the two or three people who read my column (hi, mom!) do so to hear something new and different. If I were simply saying what others are saying, there'd be no point. With that said, I'd like to call your attention to a few items available for your discussion.

Because of where I tend to reside (on the fringe, as it were), these are the sorts of discussions of which I partake and which inform my awareness of reality. These are not mainstream discussions. Few prime time news spots are interviewing experts about these items. Although, if you search for them online, you will find a lot of information. They are issues of concern and of worldwide consequence, despite the limited time and attention they receive.

## Discussion 1: The Disappearing Bees

For the past several years, scientists have been observing a unique phenomenon. They're calling it Colony Collapse Disorder—the disappearance of worker bees from hives. The number of bees in hives across the U.S., and now increasingly in other countries has been declining.

There are likely a multiplicity of causes: pesticides on the plants the bees pollinate, high fructose corn syrup that's fed to the bees and weakens their immune systems, genetically modified crops with built-in pesticides that kill insects (bees are insects), factory-farmed bees which lack diversity and nature's safeguards, artificial insemination of queen bees, and other factors which boil down to a woefully incomplete understanding of nature's order and bio-systems.

So why is this an important discussion? Well, in nature, bees assist the growth of many types of fruits by carrying pollen from plant to plant, which causes flowering and the growth of fruits and vegetables. As a business interest, bee keepers travel around wide regions selling their bee-based pollination service to farmers.

What happens to the worldwide food supply, or the availability and price of food when bee farmers' stocks of bees—which they use to pollinate fruit trees to provide us with fruit—is gone? What happens when the food supply decreases? What items or services may become more desperately needed?

## Discussion 2: Decreasing Oxygen Levels

I remember learning in high school that the Earth's atmosphere was composed of 78 percent nitrogen, 21 percent oxygen and 1 percent

trace elements. There is evidence, however, to support that the oxygen level on the planet may at one time have been as high as 50 percent. Our oxygen levels have been steadily decreasing.

So why is this an important discussion? Well, the availability or absence of oxygen affects life on the planet. We, as humans, thrive in an oxygen-rich environment. Naturopaths know that many illnesses can be cured by oxygen therapy. When the level of oxygen in our system is compromised, we do not function optimally.

Viruses, bacteria and germs, on the other hand, thrive in an oxygen-poor environment. In other words, the less oxygen there is, the more these life forms grow. Might that explain the rise in illness in our society? Might the lowered and compromised immune systems of our children be explained? Might the increase in various flu cases, and their resistance to treatment be explained by this decrease in oxygen?

## Discussion 3: Mutating Bacteria

It's been recognized that antibiotics, those once widely-praised saviors of humanity, have been increasingly ineffective against certain strains of bacteria, leading to the growth of antibiotic-resistant strains, or "superbugs." Antibiotics are increasingly ineffective because they are often used to treat viral infections that might be more appropriately treated naturally.

As these superbugs mutate and replicate, science responds by creating even more powerful versions of the antibiotics, which in turn leads to even harder strains of bugs.

So why is this an important discussion? Well, what happens to our food supply, and our own health and resistance to disease when these antibiotics are used in chickens and fish and cows? What happens to our water supply when these antibiotics end up in the waste from farms and factories that run off into the soil?

## Discussion 4: Health Freedom

Also on the survival front is an issue that typically passes beneath most people's radar. It is the concept of "health freedom."

By health freedom, we mean the right to choose the quality of the food you will eat, and the way how you heal yourself should you become ill.

Doesn't it make sense that I should have the right to avoid chemicals, pesticides, radiation, drugs and other unnatural additions and methods in the production and ingestion of my food? Doesn't it make sense that if I want to live a healthy life that I should have the right to take vitamin C for my cold, or treat it with herb teas rather than with antibiotics?

If, also because of my beliefs, I want to avoid (often compulsory) vaccinations, (mandated) fluoride and chloride in my water, mercury in tooth fillings, irradiated and genetically modified foods, shouldn't I have the right to do so?

Well, it's becoming increasingly more challenging to do so. Nations are being forced to comply with certain practices and mandates in order to receive economic benefits from world banks and other entities. These mandates, compulsions and practices are heavily influenced by corporate interests, and therefore are often helpful to corporate well-being but not to human and environmental health.

So, why is this an important discussion? Well, what happens when vitamins and herbs are outlawed, or their distribution is controlled by private interests who can then charge exorbitantly for access? What happens when all seeds used for farming are no longer organic, but genetically modified, and thus patented by corporations who can force farmers to pay patent fees for using their seeds? [visit

## THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

Creating economic success for the CNMI  
By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE  
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to [walt@passionprofit.com](mailto:walt@passionprofit.com).

[healthfreedom.org](http://healthfreedom.org), or search for "codex"]

## Discussion 5: As the Market Shakes and Shudders

Finally, this is a biggie, and I risk being ostracized to even suggest such a thing, but as the market shakes and shudders, one discussion that few dare to have is of alternatives to the current paradigm.

It is of course, akin to blasphemy to even suggest an "alternative" to capitalism. The rich seek to maintain their position, and the poor fear not getting their turn at wealth. So everyone continues on the journey without even questioning whether it makes sense at all. But, as mentioned in a previous column, there is a fatal flaw in the manner in which capitalism is engaged in our society. Could there be a better way to define and pursue a type of "progress" that doesn't require the exploitation of others and the rape of natural resources? By bailing out companies that might simply be succumbing to the fatal flaw, are we simply delaying the inevitable demise of a system which seeks infinite growth based on finite resources?

Without an adequate and truth-based perception of reality, the choices you make in response to perceived conditions will fall short of providing you the results you seek. In other words, if you don't know what's really going on, you can't do anything real about it.

Is your information complete? Are you getting the full story? Are there elements of your perspective that need to be filled in? From both a personal as well as business perspective, knowing a bit more about what's going on in certain fringes can help you survive, and thrive as things change. Yes, sometimes the world makes more sense when seen from the fringe.

Your comments are welcomed!

■ ■ ■

Note: The African American Cultural Preservation Committee is calling for entries for the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Essay and Elocution Contest. The topic this year is "What Would Martin Say?" All students in the CNMI are invited. See the [www.blackson-saipan.com](http://www.blackson-saipan.com) website for details. Fliers are being distributed to the schools this week.

Note: For more tips on overcoming your fears, acting on your ideas, changing the game, and creating a passion-centered lifestyle, visit [www.passionprofit.com](http://www.passionprofit.com)!

■ ■ ■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 12 books including *Turn Your Passion Into Profit*. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the *Saipanpreneur Project* and Walt's philosophy and formula visit [www.saipanpreneur.com](http://www.saipanpreneur.com) and [www.passionprofit.com](http://www.passionprofit.com).

## Letters to the Editor

### Thank you

On behalf of the people of the CNMI who are against the proposed Mariana Marine Monument, I would like to extend a heartfelt appreciation to the all the Native Hawaiians Aha Ki'ole Advisory Committee, the chief executives of the Micronesian Leaders and the Association of Marianas Municipal Island Mayors, Vice Mayors and Elected Municipal Council Officials for their full "no support" of the proposed monument.

In support of these elected officials' most conscientious effort to go against this unnecessary proposal is a testament that the people of each respective jurisdiction are also against the proposed marine monument. Thank you very much for hearing the voice of the majority of the people of the Marianas Islands. Please continue to give deaf ears to the few supporters of the proposed Marianas Marine Monument. Please forgive them for they don't know what they are doing.

I call on all the people of the Marianas Islands who have been silent on the issue to openly come out against this dreaded intention. We

must listen to the Native Hawaiians who are currently experiencing the negative impact of the Papahānumoūkū Marine Monument. We must listen to the Native Hawaiians because they know better than the handful of supporters of the Marianas Marine Monument. Let us not be fooled by the supporters of the monument because they don't know and they have not had any experience, positive or negative, of this magnitude. The Native Hawaiians have the experience.

We, the non-supporters of the proposed marine monument, now have more than one million people who are with us. Let's continue to show our non-support of this unnecessary proposal. God bless you all!

Once again, thank you Aha Ki'ole Advisory Committee, chief executives of the Micronesian Leaders, and Association of Marianas Municipal Islands Mayors, Vice Mayors and Municipal Council Officials. We sincerely appreciate your full support against the proposed marine monument.

**Juan I. Tenorio**  
*As Matuis, Saipan*

## Birthright

The overwhelming support given the NMI governor versus the proposed marine monument doesn't require logic or reason. To say that it does is acceding to all that is illogical or unreasonable or both.

It's about our birthright! As such, it isn't what you and proponents say that matters as much as what we do proactively to ensure that we protect ownership of what's ours for indigenous posterity in perpetuity. We need logic and reason NOT for we have no intention to surrender what's ours anyway.






I'm not ready to submit to what others from without want us to do. Eh, it's your turn to play da kine ukulele for I also like da kine for listening while sipping da kine drink at sunset. Our people no longer wish to genuflect to Lord Weeds from the other side of the Pacific divide. Our ancestors have guarded and protected these pearly isles since four thousand years ago. What is it that you don't understand about our ancestral rights?

**John S. DelRosario Jr.**  
*via e-mail*

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

| TODAY   | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY  | SATURDAY   | SUNDAY  |
|---|---|---|--|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Mostly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.                      | Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.                     | Partly sunny with isolated showers.   | Partly cloudy with isolated showers.   | Partly cloudy with isolated showers.  |
| ▲88° ▼79°   | ▲87° ▼78°   | ▲88° ▼78°   | ▲88° ▼78°  | ▲88° ▼78°   |

### Micronesia

|               |               |         |
|---------------|---------------|---------|
| Guam and Rota | Sunny         | ▲85 ▼75 |
| Palau         | Showers       | ▲85 ▼78 |
| Yap           | Showers       | ▲86 ▼76 |
| Chuuk         | Mostly Cloudy | ▲88 ▼76 |
| Pohnpei       | Showers       | ▲86 ▼75 |
| Kosrae        | Showers       | ▲88 ▼78 |
| Majuro        | Showers       | ▲84 ▼75 |

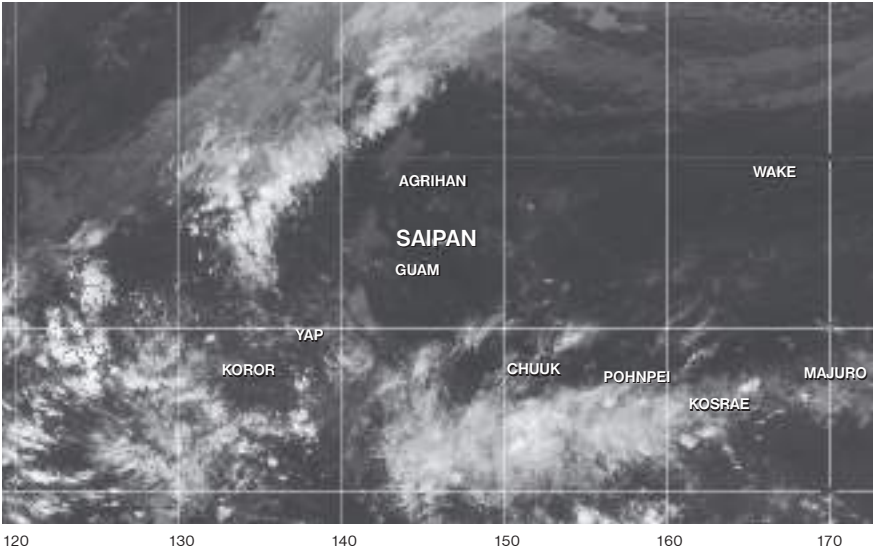
### Around The Globe

|                |               |         |
|----------------|---------------|---------|
| Auckland       | Cloudy        | ▲69 ▼63 |
| Beijing        | Mostly Cloudy | ▲42 ▼22 |
| Hong Kong      | Mostly Sunny  | ▲73 ▼67 |
| Honolulu       | Mostly Sunny  | ▲81 ▼69 |
| London         | Rain          | ▲45 ▼39 |
| Los Angeles    | Cloudy        | ▲70 ▼50 |
| Manila         | Showers       | ▲84 ▼74 |
| Melbourne      | Cloudy        | ▲74 ▼62 |
| Miami          | Partly Sunny  | ▲67 ▼51 |
| New York       | Mostly Sunny  | ▲47 ▼39 |
| Osaka          | Sunny         | ▲62 ▼44 |
| Paris          | Cloudy        | ▲42 ▼39 |
| Pusan          | Sunny         | ▲60 ▼42 |
| Rome           | Partly Sunny  | ▲54 ▼37 |
| Salem          | Mostly Cloudy | ▲49 ▼35 |
| San Francisco  | Partly Sunny  | ▲61 ▼46 |
| Seoul          | Mostly Sunny  | ▲52 ▼26 |
| Tokyo          | Mostly Sunny  | ▲59 ▼44 |
| Washington, DC | Mostly Sunny  | ▲48 ▼36 |

### Tides

| Saipan Harbor |            |          |
|---------------|------------|----------|
| 4:53AM Today  | Low Tide:  | 0.1 Feet |
| 12:24PM Today | High Tide: | 1.8 Feet |
| 6:04PM Today  | Low Tide:  | 1.3 Feet |
| 9:55PM Today  | High Tide: | 1.6 Feet |

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



#### PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, DEC. 2, 2008

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface low is centered at 23N135E. A shear line stretches southwestward from the low beyond 18N130E. A warm front extends eastward from the low through 25N150E then continues as a cold front through 25N160E northeastward beyond 25N at 170E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found between 13N and 21N from 131E to 137E and between 22N and 25N from 140E to 143E. Scattered showers are occurring 150 miles northeast of a line from 17N130E to 24N140E. Also up to 200 miles north of the cold front boundary. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found west and south of Koror between the equator and 11N west of 133E and south of 2N from 133E to 136E. A surface trough runs northwestward from EQ153E to 7N146E surface winds converging toward the trough are generating numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Chuuk and Pohnpei within 250 miles of the surface trough boundary and within 200 miles of a line from 4N155E to 4N164E. Scattered trade-wind showers are occurring near Majuro between 4N and 8N from 170E to 180.

### Sunrise/Sunset

|          |        |         |
|----------|--------|---------|
| Today    | 6:28AM | 5:45 PM |
| Thursday | 6:29AM | 5:45 PM |
| Friday   | 6:29AM | 5:46 PM |
| Saturday | 6:30AM | 5:46 PM |
| Sunday   | 6:31AM | 5:46 PM |

### Moonrise/Moonset

|          |         |          |
|----------|---------|----------|
| Today    | 10:34AM | 8:16 PM  |
| Thursday | 11:13AM | 11:05 PM |
| Friday   | 11:50AM | 11:55 PM |
| Saturday | 12:26PM |          |
| Sunday   | 1:03PM  | 12:44 AM |

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

#### CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

#### REQUIREMENTS

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

##### For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 19, 2008

| DEPARTURES  | ARRIVALS   |
|---|--|
| <b>Saipan-Rota</b><br>CO9597 11:50am 12:25pm 1,7  | <b>Rota-Saipan</b><br>CO 9598 3:25am 4:00am 5,6  |
| <b>Saipan-Guam</b><br>CO9317 5:00am 5:50am Daily<br>CO9313 8:30am 9:20am Daily<br>CO9597 11:50am 1:20pm 1,7 via Rota<br>CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm 2,3,4,5,6<br>CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily<br>CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily<br>CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily  | <b>Guam-Saipan</b><br>CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am 1,2,3,4,7<br>CO9598 2:30am 4:00am 5,6 via Rota<br>CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily<br>CO9600 10:20am 11:10am Daily<br>CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily<br>CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily<br>CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily |
| <b>Saipan-Narita</b><br>NW 099 5:00am 7:40am Daily<br>NW 078 8:25am 1:30pm 2,3,4,5,6,7<br>NW 075 4:55pm 7:30pm Daily  | <b>Narita-Saipan</b><br>NW 076 10:15am 2:40pm Daily<br>NW 077 6:25pm 1:25am+1 2,3,4,5,6,7<br>NW 100 8:45pm 1:15am+1 Daily  |
| <b>Saipan-Osaka</b><br>NW 083 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily   | <b>Osaka-Saipan</b><br>NW 084 10:40am 3:10pm Daily   |
| <b>Saipan-Nagoya</b><br>NW 078 8:25am 11:05am Daily   | <b>Nagoya-Saipan</b><br>NW 077 9:00pm 1:25am+1 Daily   |
| <b>Saipan-Incheon</b><br>OZ 604 2:10am 6:00am 1<br>OZ 604 2:40am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7<br>OZ 606 3:20pm 7:00pm Daily   | <b>Incheon-Saipan</b><br>OZ 605 9:00am 2:20pm Daily<br>OZ 603 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7<br>OZ 603 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6  |
| <b>Saipan-Busan</b><br>OZ 608 3:50am 7:20am 1,4,5,7   | <b>Busan-Saipan</b><br>OZ 607 9:30pm 2:40am+1 3,4,6,7  |
| <b>Saipan-Shanghai</b><br>FM 844 2:50am 5:40am 2,6  | <b>Shanghai-Saipan</b><br>FM 843 7:15pm 1:50am+1 1,5   |
| <b>Rota-Guam</b><br>CO 9597 12:50pm 1:20pm 1,7  | <b>Guam-Rota</b><br>CO 9598 2:30am 3:00am 5,6  |
| <b>Guam-Manila</b><br>CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 3,5 via Koror<br>CO 933 8:00pm 9:40pm Daily<br>PR 111 6:00am 7:50am 1,2,4,6,7  | <b>Manila-Guam</b><br>CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 3,5 via Koror<br>CO 934 11:10pm 4:40am+1 Daily<br>PR 110 10:10pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7  |
| Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana<br>ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.) |  |

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

| Airline                        | ETD | ETA | Frequency | Airline  | ETD     | ETA     | Frequency |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----|-----------|--|---------|---------|-----------|
| <b>Guam-Rota</b>               |     |     |           | FRE 113  | 11:40am | 11:50am | Daily     |
| FRE 100 7:00am 7:30am Daily    |     |     |           | FRE 115  | 1:00pm  | 1:10pm  | Daily     |
| <b>Rota-Saipan</b>             |     |     |           | FRE 117  | 2:30pm  | 2:40pm  | Daily     |
| FRE 100 7:50am 8:20am Daily    |     |     |           | FRE 119  | 4:00pm  | 4:10pm  | Daily     |
| <b>Saipan-Rota</b>             |     |     |           | FRE 121  | 4:40pm  | 4:50pm  | Daily     |
| FRE 200 9:00am 9:30am Daily    |     |     |           | FRE 123 *  | 5:40pm  | 5:50pm  | Daily     |
| <b>Rota-Guam</b>               |     |     |           | FRE 125 *  | 6:00pm  | 6:10pm  | Daily     |
| FRE 200 9:50am 10:15am Daily   |     |     |           | <b>Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**</b> |         |         |           |
| <b>Guam-Rota</b>               |     |     |           | FRE 102  | 7:05am  | 7:15am  | Daily     |
| FRE 300 4:00pm 4:30pm Daily    |     |     |           | FRE 104  | 7:50am  | 8:00am  | Daily     |
| <b>Rota-Saipan</b>             |     |     |           | FRE 106**  | 8:20am  | 8:30am  | Daily     |
| FRE 300 4:50pm 5:25pm Daily    |     |     |           | FRE 108**  | 9:00am  | 9:10am  | Daily     |
| <b>Saipan-Rota</b>             |     |     |           | FRE 110  | 10:00am | 10:10am | Daily     |
| FRE 400 6:00pm 6:30pm Daily    |     |     |           | FRE 112  | 11:05am | 11:15am | Daily     |
| <b>Rota-Guam</b>               |     |     |           | FRE 114  | 12:00pm | 12:10pm | Daily     |
| FRE 400 6:45pm 7:15pm Daily    |     |     |           | FRE 116  | 1:30pm  | 1:40pm  | Daily     |
| <b>Saipan-Tinian</b>           |     |     |           | FRE 118  | 2:50pm  | 3:00pm  | Daily     |
| FRE 101 6:45am 6:55am Daily    |     |     |           | FRE 120**  | 4:20pm  | 4:30pm  | Daily     |
| FRE 103 7:30am 7:40am Daily    |     |     |           | FRE 122**  | 5:00pm  | 5:10pm  | Daily     |
| FRE 105 8:00am 8:10am Daily    |     |     |           | FRE 124  | 6:05pm  | 6:15pm  | Daily     |
| FRE 107 8:40am 8:50am Daily    |     |     |           | FRE 126  | 6:20pm  | 6:30pm  | Daily     |
| FRE 109* 9:10am 9:20am Daily   |     |     |           |  |         |         |           |
| FRE 111* 10:45am 10:55am Daily |     |     |           |  |         |         |           |



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)

# Island Snapshots



**DIABETES AWARENESS** NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ  
Organizers and audience join youth dancers as part of the diabetes awareness activity on Nov. 22 near the Sabalu Market.



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ  
A staff of Ayuda Network Inc. assists a mother and her children in the free food distribution during the diabetes awareness and prevention activity.



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ  
Children line up for free food and other items from Ayuda Network Inc.



**OPERATION HOMEFRONT** CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Community members stand by some of the boxes after they were packaged Sunday at the Army Reserve Center. The packages were to be mailed Monday to soldiers currently deployed.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Community members smile as they prepare packages for soldiers currently deployed.



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ  
Medical practitioners volunteer their services to the community.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
From left to right: American Red Cross's Kennedy Benjamin; Geri Willis, organizer of Operation CNMI Home Front and director of the Troops to Teachers Program; Fred Camacho, co-organizer of Operation Home Front Support; and American Red Cross's John Hirsh.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
An assembly line was created in order to package the more than 200 boxes that were to be mailed Monday.



**INDUCTION RITES** CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Kagman High School recently inducted 24 new members to the local chapter of National Honor Society. It now has 84 active members, which is the highest membership among all schools in the CNMI. The event was held at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan and was organized by the NHS adviser, Mrs. Liz Hofschneider, and officers.



**SABALU MARKET** NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ  
Regular buyers enjoy the fresh fruits and vegetables on display during the Saipan Sabalu Farmers Market Association Thanksgiving Day activity on Nov. 22.



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ  
Stall owners use their creativity as they join the farmers' competition.



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ  
Officers and members of the Saipan Sabalu Farmer's Market Association share information about their harvests.

## Business

## Travel pinched by global financial crisis

By KRISTEN A. LEE  
and HARRY R. WEBER  
AP BUSINESS WRITERS

The tourists chatting in multiple languages in the piazzas, bars and shops of Rome belie a more somber mood at the ancient city's hotels.

Luigi Rinaldi, concierge of the Hotel de la Minerve next to the Pantheon, said American tourists have disappeared, although demand among German, Spanish and Russian tourists is solid.

The hotel is trying to lure guests by keeping prices steady—even during the high season at Christmas and New Year's—and by adding weekend promotions.

"But we are a five-star hotel," Rinaldi said. "We can't be too daring."

Rome is among many major cities around the world seeing



Holiday travelers at Northwest McNamara Terminal in Romulus, Mich. on Sunday, Nov. 30, 2008.

dramatic declines in hotel occupancy this fall as consumers and businesses cut travel spending: Occupancy in Rome fell 17.5

percent in October compared with the same month last year.

Global air travel also has fallen off as the financial crisis

that has hit economies around the world takes its toll. Executives from major airlines speaking at a conference in New York

on Tuesday may reveal further erosion of demand for seats and discuss capacity reductions they'll make in response.

The International Air Transport Association says international passenger traffic declined 1.3 percent in October compared with 2007, following a 2.9 percent drop in September.

"I think it's going to be a very cold winter, and I'm not a weatherman," said Calyon Securities airline analyst Ray Neidl.

Airlines, which already made dramatic cuts to their fall schedules as oil prices soared over the summer, have cited the economic slowdown as reason enough for them to continue to be cautious, even though oil prices have dropped significantly the last few months.

Several U.S. airlines have promised or hinted they will cut domestic and international capacity further in 2009.

## Bush sorry economic crisis has cut jobs, 401(k)s

WASHINGTON (AP)—President George W. Bush expressed remorse that the global financial crisis has cost jobs and harmed retirement accounts and said he'll back more government intervention if needed to ease the recession.

"I'm sorry it's happening, of course," Bush said in a wide-ranging interview with ABC's "World News," which was airing Monday. "Obviously I don't like the idea of people losing jobs, or being worried about their 401(k)s. On the other hand, the American people got to know that we

will safeguard the system. I mean, we're in. And if we need to be in more, we will."

The U.S. economy fell into a recession in December 2007, the National Bureau of Economic Research reported on Monday. Many economists believe the current downturn will last until the middle of 2009 and will be the most severe slump since the 1981-82 recession.

On the war in Iraq, Bush said the biggest regret of his presidency was the "intelligence failure" regarding the extent of the

Saddam Hussein threat to the United States. With the support of Congress, Bush ordered the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in March 2003—a decision largely justified on grounds—later proved false—that Saddam was building weapons of mass destruction.

Asked if he would have ordered the U.S.-led invasion if intelligence reports had accurately indicated that Saddam did not have the weapons, Bush replied: "You know, that's an interesting question. That is a do-over that I can't do. It's hard for me to speculate."

## Recession-hit automakers brace for grim US sales

WASHINGTON (AP)—Walloped by the recession, automakers' U.S. sales are plummeting as hard-to-get credit, job losses and other stresses make many Americans wary of taking on big-ticket financial commitments.

Auto sales for November, released Tuesday, are expected to show a drop of 36 percent from a year ago to a seasonally adjusted annualized rate of 10.2 million vehicles, according

to Joseph Amato, analyst at Buckingham Research. Those sales figures would include the Big Three Detroit car makers as well as foreign companies that sell vehicles in this country.

Later Tuesday, General Motors Corp., Ford Motor Co. and Chrysler LLC will provide a skeptical Congress with details about their long-term viability plans. The U.S. auto companies are desperately trying to secure

\$25 billion in fresh government loans to help them survive the economic carnage. They insist that bankruptcy isn't an option, even as companies burn through cash and bleed jobs.

The auto industry's plight comes under an intense spotlight just one day after the United States got some grim news of its own: The economy has been stuck in a recession since December 2007.

## Asian markets tumble after Wall Street plunge

TOKYO (AP)—Asian stock markets tumbled Tuesday following massive overnight losses on Wall Street and dismal economic numbers out of the U.S., a crucial export market.

Japan's Nikkei 225 stock average shed 4.6 percent to 8,011.69, and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index lost 4.9 percent to 13,419.40.

Global markets had rallied last week, but any nascent investor confidence quickly wilted after grim U.S. economic data sent the Dow Jones industrial average plummeting nearly 700 points—or 7.7 percent—Monday, wiping out more than half of last week's big gains.

"A string of weak economic data really depressed sentiment," said Yutaka Miura, a senior strategist at Shinko Securities in Tokyo. "Investors are becoming more pessimistic over the state of the global economy."

Australia's central bank

slashed its key interest rate Monday a full percentage point to 4.25 percent as it tries to prevent the economy from contracting. The global financial crisis has taken Australia's economy from boom times to the verge of recession in a matter of months, and policymakers are throwing billions of dollars at the economy to try to stop it from tipping over the edge. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 index was down 3.2 percent at 3,564.4.

Markets in the Philippines, Taiwan and South Korea also dropped.

Among major regional markets, only Singapore and mainland China rose.

U.S. stocks first slid on initial reports that the first weekend of the holiday shopping season, while better than some retailers and analysts feared, saw only modest gains. Downbeat reports on the manufacturing sector and construction spending further unnerved investors.

grates Washington Mutual, 4,000 will be cut by the end of January, a JPMorgan spokesman said. The remaining 5,200 employees will remain with JPMorgan through a transition period, but will lose their positions by the end of 2009. Those 5,200 employees who stay on as transition workers will receive double their salary retroactive to Oct. 1 until their last day on the job, and be entitled to severance packages, the spokesman said. Washington Mutual had between 41,500 and 42,000 employees nationwide when JPMorgan took over the bank at the end of September.

## JPMorgan cutting 9,200 jobs at Washington Mutual

NEW YORK (AP)—JPMorgan Chase & Co. said Monday it will cut a total of 9,200 jobs at Washington Mutual, which it acquired Sept. 25 after Washington Mutual became the nation's largest bank to fail amid the ongoing credit crisis. Of the 9,200 jobs being eliminated as JPMorgan inte-

### ASIAN MARKETS

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| AUSTRALIA<br>3,473.40<br>Down 145.60<br>(-4.02%) | HONG KONG<br>13,401.00<br>Down 703.98<br>(-4.96%) | JAKARTA<br>1,183.63<br>Down 39.49<br>(-3.23%)   |
| TOKYO<br>7,863.69<br>Down 533.53<br>(-6.35%)     | K. LUMPUR<br>852.11<br>Down 14.03<br>(-1.62%)     | MANILA<br>1,879.87<br>Down 91.70<br>(-4.67%)    |
| SEOUL<br>1,023.20<br>Down 35.42<br>(-3.35%)      | BANGKOK<br>385.95<br>Down 4.97<br>(-1.27%)        | SINGAPORE<br>1,655.05<br>Down 35.18<br>(-2.08%) |

### LEADING INDICATORS

|                                      |
|--------------------------------------|
| <b>DOW</b><br>8,149.09<br>-679.95    |
| <b>NASDAQ</b><br>1,398.07<br>-137.50 |
| <b>S&amp;P</b><br>816.21<br>0.00     |

### MONEY MARKET

|                    |             |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Australian Dollar  | 1.5686      |
| British Pound      | 0.6721      |
| Canadian Dollar    | 1.2469      |
| Chinese Renminbi   | 6.887       |
| Euro               | 0.7930      |
| Hong Kong Dollar   | 7.7507      |
| Indian Rupee       | 50.5060     |
| Indonesian Rupiah  | 12,375.0000 |
| Japanese Yen       | 93.3030     |
| Malaysian Ringgit  | 3.6398      |
| New Zealand Dollar | 1.8941      |
| Philippine Peso    | 49.4750     |
| Singapore Dollar   | 1.5313      |
| South Korean Won   | 1464.5000   |
| Swiss Franc        | 1.2056      |
| Taiwan Dollar      | 33.4840     |
| Thailand Baht      | 35.643      |

In U.S. dollar terms  
Source: Associated Press

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

## Oil tumbles below \$50 as recession called

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—Oil prices tumbled below \$50 a barrel Monday as National Bureau of Economic Research reported that the U.S. economy has been in a recession since December 2007 and the Dow Jones industrial average fell nearly 700 points. A tandem of bleak economic reports led to an early decline even before the NBER report was released, and a huge sell-off on Wall Street was enough to send crude prices down fast on the belief that energy demand is deteriorating. A panel of the NBER believes the current

downturn will last until the middle of 2009 and will be the most severe slump since the 1981-82 recession. Light, sweet crude for January delivery fell more than 9 percent, or \$5.15, to settle at \$49.28 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

## Manufacturing index drops to 26-year low

WASHINGTON (AP)—A gauge of U.S. manufacturing activity that fell to a 26-year low Monday followed similarly weak readings in Europe and China, fueling fears of a deepening global downturn. The Institute for Supply Management's index of man-

ufacturing activity for November fell to 36.2 from October's 38.9. The reading was worse than Wall Street economists' expectations of 38.4, according to a survey by Thomson Reuters. A figure below 50 indicates the sector is contracting. The November reading is the lowest since May 1982, the Tempe, Ariz.-based ISM said. The report is based on a survey of corporate purchasing managers. The report came the same day that the National Bureau of Economic Research, a private group, said the U.S. economy has been in a recession since December 2007. By one benchmark, a recession occurs when

the economy's output declines for two straight quarters. But the bureau's dating committee uses more precise measures that include employment, personal income and industrial output.

# Nation

## Obama picks Gates, Clinton for foreign policy team

**CHICAGO** (AP)—Barack Obama announced a national security team Monday headed by Hillary Rodham Clinton, who fought him long and bitterly for the presidency, and Robert Gates, the man who has been running two wars for George W. Bush—striking choices by a president-elect who declared he wanted “strong personalities and strong opinions.”

While the team may be a bit more centrist—some war opponents might even say hawkish—that many Obama supporters might prefer, he said he still thinks 16 months is “the right time frame” for pulling most U.S. combat troops from Iraq. He added, as he often did in the presidential campaign’s closing months, that he would consult with military commanders before setting a firm timetable.

Clinton, as secretary of state, and Gates, remaining as defense secretary, will be the most prominent faces—besides Obama’s own—of the new administration’s effort to revamp U.S. policy abroad.

At a Chicago news conference, Obama also tapped top advisers Eric Holder as attorney general and Susan Rice as ambassador to the United Nations.

He named Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano to be homeland security secretary and retired Marine Gen. James Jones as White House national security adviser.

The choices had been telegraphed days earlier but were remarkable all the same—still another major turn in Clinton’s extraordinary career, a show of faith in Gates and action to support Obama’s frequent talk of desiring robust debate among seasoned, opinionated people in his inner circle.

Denouncing White House “group think,” Obama signaled a break from President Bush’s tendency toward an insular management style and go-with-the-gut diplomacy.

“The time has come for a new beginning,” said Obama, flanked by flags on a stage with Vice President-elect Joe Biden and his six newest appointees. While Gates will stay at the Pentagon, Obama said the military’s new mission will be “responsibly ending the war in Iraq through a successful transition to Iraqi control.”

He said a newly completed agreement between Iraq and the Bush administration covering U.S. troops signals “a transition period in which our mission is



President-elect Barack Obama leaves a news conference with Secretary of State-designate Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., in Chicago, Monday, Dec. 1, 2008.

changing.” He added: “It indicates we are now on a glide path to reduce our forces in Iraq.” Obama has now selected half

his Cabinet, including the high-profile jobs at State, Defense, Justice and Treasury. A week ago, he named his economic team, led by Timothy Geithner as treasury secretary. And soon he plans to announce New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson as commerce secretary and former Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle as health and human services secretary.

Obama’s picks suggest he is mindful of his own relative inexperience; most of the appointees have decades more experience in government than he does as a former one-term Illinois senator. The selections also reflect his long-voiced desire to invite divergent viewpoints to chart the best course for the country.

“I assembled this team because I’m a strong believer in strong personalities and strong opinions,” he said. “I think that’s how the best decisions are made. ... So I’m going to be welcoming a vigorous debate inside the White House.”

“But understand I will be setting policy as president,” he added. He said he will be responsible for “the vision that this team carries out, and I expect them to implement that vision once decisions are made.”



Bush

## Bush uses final 50 days in office to tout legacy

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—President George W. Bush says history will judge him, but he is getting his own crack first. Bush is using his final 50 days in office to tout his legacy, hoping to leave a lasting impression of overshadowed progress. On Monday, World AIDS Day, Bush was heralded for his leadership in fighting the disease, a point that even his Democratic critics readily concede.

The anti-AIDS program Bush championed in 2003 has delivered lifesaving medicine to more than 2 million people in five years, up from 50,000 people before it began. Many of those helped live in impoverished sub-Saharan Africa, where AIDS is the leading killer.

“I would hope that when it’s all said and done, people say, ‘This is a guy who showed up to solve problems,’” Bush said at a global health forum. “And when you have somebody say there’s a pandemic that you can help, and you do nothing about it, then you have frankly disgraced the office.”

For most of his last year in office, Bush has shied away from legacy talk for two reasons. One is that he did not want to seem as if he were looking back when he was still running the country. The other is that he did not want to get dragged into the 2008 presidential campaign by defending his record.

That’s over now. Once Democrat Barack Obama beat Republican John McCain for the White House, Bush’s final agenda has shifted focus. He is still active on the crises of the day—the economic mess, the terrorist attacks in India—but he is notably carving out time to emphasize priorities of the last eight years.

That is why on Tuesday, he’ll be in Greensboro, N.C., to trumpet a program that mentors children of prisoners. It is part of a nationwide mentoring program that Bush promoted in his 2003 State of the Union address, the same time he announced his Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.

## Panel warns biological attack likely by 2013

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—The United States can expect a terrorist attack using nuclear or more likely biological weapons before 2013, reports a bipartisan commission in a study being briefed Tuesday to Vice President-elect Joe Biden. It suggests the Obama administration bolster efforts to counter and prepare for germ warfare by terrorists.

“Our margin of safety is shrinking, not growing,” states the report, obtained by The Associated Press. It is scheduled to be publicly released Wednesday.

The commission is also encouraging the new White House to appoint one official on the National Security Council to exclusively coordinate U.S. in-

telligence and foreign policy on combating the spread of nuclear and biological weapons.

The report of the Commission on the Prevention of WMD Proliferation and Terrorism, led by former Sens. Bob Graham of Florida and Jim Talent of Missouri, acknowledges that terrorist groups still lack the needed scientific and technical ability to make weapons out of pathogens or nuclear bombs. But it warns that gap can be easily overcome, if terrorists find scientists willing to share or sell their know-how.

“The United States should be less concerned that terrorists will become biologists and far more concerned that biologists will become terrorists,” the report states.

## 1 in 5 young adults has personality disorder

**CHICAGO** (AP)—Almost one in five young American adults has a personality disorder that interferes with everyday life, and even more abuse alcohol or drugs, researchers reported Monday in the most extensive study of its kind.

The disorders include problems such as obsessive or compulsive tendencies and anti-social behavior that can sometimes lead to violence. The study also found that fewer than 25 percent of college-aged Americans with mental problems get treatment.

One expert said personality disorders may be overdiagnosed. But others said the results were not surprising since previous, less rigorous evidence has suggested

mental problems are common on college campuses and elsewhere.

Experts praised the study’s scope—face-to-face interviews about numerous disorders with more than 5,000 young people ages 19 to 25—and said it spotlights a problem college administrators need to address.

Study co-author Dr. Mark Olfson of Columbia University and New York State Psychiatric Institute called the widespread lack of treatment particularly worrisome. He said it should alert not only “students and parents, but also deans and people who run college mental health services about the need to extend access to treatment.”

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### Indictments against Cheney, Gonzales dismissed

**RAYMONDVILLE, Texas** (AP)—A judge dismissed indictments against Vice President Dick Cheney and former Attorney General Alberto Gonzales on Monday and told the southern Texas prosecutor who brought the case to exercise caution as his term in office ends. Wilacy County District Attorney Juan Angel Guerra had accused Cheney and the other defendants of responsibility for prisoner abuse. The judge’s order ended two weeks of sometimes-bizarre court proceedings. Guerra is leaving office at the end of the month after soundly losing in his March primary election. “I suggest on behalf of the law that you not present any cases to the grand jury involving these defendants,” Administrative Judge Manuel Banales said in court while ruling that eight indictments against Cheney, Gonzales and others were invalid. He also set a Dec. 10 hearing on whether to disqualify Guerra from those cases.

#### Parents: Slain anchorwoman was sexually assaulted

**LITTLE ROCK, Ark.** (AP)—A television anchorwoman killed in her home had been sexually assaulted and beaten so badly in a suspected burglary that her jaw shattered and she broke a hand while trying to fend off her attacker’s blows, her parents said Monday.

“This monster stole my daughter’s innocence,” said Patti Cannady, the mother of Anne Pressly, on NBC’s “Today.” “He took her life. He took her identity. He took our lives,” she said. Police Lt. Terry Hastings did not dispute her remarks and those of her husband, Guy, but declined to offer specifics about the attack. Police and prosecutors have refused to say whether Pressly, 26, was sexually assaulted during the Oct. 20 attack in Little Rock. “A lot of those details, we want the jury to hear those first,” Hastings said. The 26-year-old anchorwoman for KATV died Oct. 25. An arrest warrant used to pick up Curtis Lavelle Vance, 28, was released Monday but doesn’t mention a sexual assault.

#### 191 endure 9 frustrating hours stuck on LA tarmac

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Nearly 200 passengers on a flight from El Salvador landed Monday in Los Angeles after spending nine hours aboard a grounded plane at a smaller airport as the airline and customs officials tried to work through apparent confusion. Passengers described hours of hunger and frustration as they waited on the Taca airline flight on the tarmac at LA/Ontario International Airport after their plane was diverted because of heavy fog. Eduardo Mejia, 34, of El Salvador said that he and other passengers were desperate to get off the airplane, and that some

called 911 to report cramped conditions and illnesses. Jose Reyes, 53, also of El Salvador, said he pleaded with the flight crew to let passengers leave the plane and put them on a shuttle bus to Los Angeles. Instead, fire and airport crews gave them water and crackers. No one was hospitalized. “They didn’t listen to us. They only said, ‘I’m sorry,’” he said.

#### Man says God ordered him to ram vehicle at 100 mph

**SAN ANTONIO** (AP)—A man who rammed his truck into a woman’s vehicle on a highway early Friday told authorities he crashed into her while going more than 100 mph because God told him “she needed to be taken off the road.” The truck rear-ended the car on U.S. Highway 281, both vehicles spun across a median then came to a stop along a barrier in the opposite lanes. Both drivers suffered only minor injuries. “He just said God said she wasn’t driving right, and she needed to be taken off the road,” Bexar County Sheriff’s Office spokesman Kyle Coleman said in the online edition of the San Antonio Express-News. “God must have been with them, ‘cause any other time, the severity of this crash, it would have been a fatal.” The pickup driver did not tell police how the woman was driving. Police could not find alcohol or drugs in either driver. A psychiatric evaluation has been ordered for a man.

# Asia

## Official: India received intel on Mumbai attacks

**MUMBAI, India (AP)**—India picked up intelligence in recent months that Pakistan-based terrorists were plotting attacks against Mumbai targets, an official said Tuesday, as the government demanded that Pakistan take “strong action” against those behind the deadly rampage.

The U.S., meanwhile, pressured Islamabad to cooperate with the investigation.

The only known surviving attacker told police that his group trained for months in camps operated by a banned Pakistani militant group, learning close-combat techniques, explosives training and other tactics for their three-day siege.

■ ■ ■  
**MUMBAI, India (AP)**—India has demanded that Islamabad hand over dozens of suspected terrorists believed to be living in Pakistan, including India’s most-wanted man.

The list includes Dawood Ibrahim, the alleged mastermind of 1993 Mumbai bombings and India’s most-wanted man. He is thought to be living in Pakistan, though Islamabad denies that.

■ ■ ■  
The demand comes in the wake of the deadly Mumbai attacks.

India’s foreign intelligence agency received information as recently as September that Pakistan-based terrorists were plotting attacks against Mumbai targets, according to a government intelligence official familiar with the matter.

## Court dissolves Thai government for election fraud

**BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)**—The Constitutional Court dissolved Thailand’s top three ruling parties for electoral fraud Tuesday and temporarily barred the prime minister from politics, bringing down a government that faced months of strident protests seeking its ouster.

The ruling set the stage for thousands of protesters to end their siege of the country’s two main airports. Members of the People’s Alliance for Democracy protest group at Bangkok’s international airport cheered and hugged after they heard news of the verdict.

“My heart is happy. My friends



AP  
In this handout photograph made available by Indian Presidential Palace, Indian President Pratibha Patil, second left wearing sari, and Maharashtra state Chief Minister Vilasrao Deshmukh, second right, are seen as they visited people who got injured in the hands of terrorists, at a hospital in Mumbai, India, Monday, Dec. 1, 2008.

The information was then relayed to domestic security officials, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the person was not authorized to talk publicly about the details.

The revelation comes as the government faces widespread accusations of security and intelligence failures in the Mumbai terrorist attacks that left 172 people dead and 239 injured.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who has promised to strengthen maritime and air security and look into creating a new federal investigative agency, was expected to meet Tuesday with top security aides.

Already, the country’s top law enforcement official has

resigned and two top state officials have offered to quit amid growing criticism that the attackers appeared better trained, better coordinated and better armed than police.

Teams from the FBI and Britain’s Scotland Yard met Monday with top Indian police as they prepared to help collect evidence, a police official said.

On Monday, soldiers removed the remaining bodies from the shattered Taj Mahal hotel, where the standoff finally ended Saturday morning. The army had already cleared other siege sites, including the five-star Oberoi hotel and the Mumbai headquarters of an ultra-Orthodox Jewish group.

are very happy,” said Pailin Jampapong, a 41-year-old Bangkok housekeeper choking back tears as she jumped up and down.

Government spokesman Nat-tawut Sai-kau said that Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat and his ruling, six-party coalition would step down.

“We will abide by the law. The coalition parties will meet together to plan for its next move soon,” he told The Associated Press.

He also said the government was postponing a regional summit in Thailand of Southeast Asian countries, from Decem-

ber to March.

Somchai’s People’s Power Party, the Machima Thipatai party and the Chart Thai party were found guilty of committing fraud in the December 2007 elections that brought the coalition to power with thumping majority.

Court President Chat Chalavorn said the court was dissolving the parties “to set a political standard and an example.”

“Dishonest political parties undermine Thailand’s democratic system,” he said in the court’s ruling.

from the day-to-day running of the foundation, and allow Obama’s administration to review his speaking schedule and new sources of income.

### 2 US soldier investigated for prisoner abuse

**KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)**—The U.S. military is investigating whether two of its soldiers abused a detainee in Afghanistan, a military statement said. Capt. Roger T. Hill and 1st Sgt. Tommy L. Scott, both of 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, are facing an article 32 hearing, similar to a civilian grand jury investigation, to determine whether they should be brought to trial, the statement said. The initial hearing was held Monday at the U.S. Camp Salerno, in Afghanistan’s eastern Khost province. It follows a report from within the unit about potential detainee abuse, the statement said. The military did not provide details about the alleged abuse or its possible victim.

# World

## Iraq: Bombs kill more than 30 in Baghdad, Mosul

**BAGHDAD (AP)**—A suicide bombing tore through a line of recruits waiting to enter a police academy as multiple blasts struck Iraqi security forces Monday, killing at least 33 people and wounding dozens including four U.S. soldiers and an Iraqi general.

The wave of violence in Baghdad and the northern city of Mosul occurred as U.S. combat deaths for November dropped to one of the lowest monthly levels of the war—eight—a sign that extremists are focusing on Iraqi forces as the U.S. scales down its battlefield role.

Insurgents appear to be increasingly targeting Iraqi forces who are more vulnerable than the heavily armored U.S. troops even as the Iraqis try to

take over their own security so the Americans can go home.

The bloodiest attack in the capital began when a suicide bomber—apparently a teenage boy—detonated an explosives vest packed with ball-bearings as recruits were lined up to be searched at an entrance to the heavily fortified Baghdad police academy.

Within minutes, a car parked about 150 yards away exploded, apparently aimed at those responding to the initial blast, the U.S. military said.

At least 16 people—five policemen and 11 recruits—were killed and nearly 50 wounded, according to police and hospital officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren’t authorized to re-

lease the information.

Bloodied police uniforms and combat boots were scattered with the crumpled metal hulk of the car bomb on the charred street after the bombings.

Iraqi military spokesman Maj. Gen. Qassim al-Mousawi’s office gave a slightly lower toll of 11 killed, while the U.S. military said 12 Iraqi police were killed.

One wounded 22-year-old recruit said he had been standing in line with other applicants at the time of the attack.

“We came today for an appointment at the academy and I learned later that some of my friends were killed in the second explosion,” Ali Nasir said. “It seems that there is no security and terrorism will not end.”

## Highest tide in 20 years floods historic Venice

**ITALY (AP)**—Venice could use a bailout. The city built on water has too much of it.

Residents and tourists waded through knee-deep water Monday as they navigated the city’s narrow streets and alleys, and its historic St. Mark’s Square was inundated. Boxes of tourist merchandise floated inside the flooded shops around the square and even the city’s famed pigeons sought refuge on rooftops and windowsills.

One of the highest tides in its history brought Venice to a virtual halt, rekindling a debate over a plan to build moveable flood barriers in an effort to save the lagoon city from high tides.

City officials said the tide

peaked at 61 inches (156 centimeters), well past the 40-inch (110-centimeter) flood mark, as strong winds pushed the sea into the city.

Alarms went off at 6:37 a.m. to alert citizens, but many residents were taken by surprise because authorities had initially not forecast such a high water level.

In St. Mark’s Square, one of the city’s lowest points, tourists tried to stay dry by hopping on cafe tables and chairs sticking out of the water. The water was so high that someone rowed a small speedboat across the wide square.

“It was quite an extraordinary experience,” said Michel

Gorski, visiting from Brussels with his wife. “We got stuck in the hotel for half a day but we didn’t suffer. We were sorry for the restaurants and stores around, but there was no panic and everyone worked really hard to clean up quickly.”

Workers were unable to install the traditional raised wooden walkways used during flooding because the water rose so high the platforms would have floated away too.

“There are very few streets that are water-free,” admitted city spokesman Enzo Bon.

In an ironic twist, the flooding also idled the city’s water buses because their boarding platforms were underwater.

### WORLD BRIEFS

#### Russia to upgrade missiles to evade US space arms

**MOSCOW (AP)**—Russia’s military is planning to upgrade its missiles to allow them to evade American weapons in space and penetrate any prospective missile shield, a Russian general said Monday. In comments to the Interfax news agency, Russia’s Strategic Missile Forces chief, Col.-Gen. Nikolai Solovtsov, as saying that Russia’s intercontinental ballistic missiles will be modernized to protect them from space-based components of the U.S. missile defense system. The upgrade will make the missiles’ warheads capable of flying “outside the range” of the space-based system, Solovtsov was quoted as saying. He didn’t elaborate, but Russian officials have previously boasted about prospective new warheads capable of making sharp maneuvers to dodge missile defense systems. Solovtsov also reportedly said the military will commission new RS-24 missiles equipped with state-of-the-art systems to help penetrate a missile shield. He did not specify that Moscow intended to penetrate a U.S. missile shield, but the Kremlin has fiercely opposed the U.S. plan to deploy a battery of 10 missile interceptors in Poland and a related radar in the Czech Republic.

#### French first lady joins global fight against AIDS

**PARIS (AP)**—France’s glamorous first lady threw her considerable star power behind the global fight against AIDS on Monday, as the world tallied the victims of the HIV virus that infects a new person every 15 seconds. As ceremonies marked

World AIDS Day, Carla Bruni-Sarkozy signed on to become a goodwill ambassador for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, which said it has provided lifesaving treatment to two million people living with HIV worldwide. “I think the world has become used to AIDS,” the model-turned-singer told a news conference in Paris. “We no longer see it as a scandal or an emergency.” Bruni-Sarkozy, who lost her brother Virginio to AIDS two years ago, said her work will focus on helping women and children infected with HIV, the virus that causes the disease. She pledged to fight the stigma that is still attached to AIDS in many countries.

#### Orphan of slain rabbi in Mumbai lands in Israel

**JERUSALEM (AP)**—The cries of little Moshe Holtzberg wounded hearts Monday at a tearful memorial for his parents in India. “Mommy, mommy, mommy!” he wailed, clutching a toy basketball while squirming in the arms of mourners at the Mumbai synagogue. Then the toddler and the caretaker who rescued him from the terrorist attack boarded a jet along with the bodies of his parents and four other Jews slain at the Chabad House to fly to Israel—a place the curly-haired 2-year-old had never seen. The wrenching scene at the service played over and over again on Israeli television as government officials, Chabad leaders and relatives prepared for the funerals of the victims and the future of the orphaned Moshe. The Israeli air force plane landed at Israel’s international airport just before midnight and Israeli officials joined relatives and friends of the victims.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Bill Clinton kicks off conference in Hong Kong

**HONG KONG (AP)**—Former President Bill Clinton kicked off his first charitable conference abroad in Hong Kong on Tuesday after he agreed to greater oversight of his foundation to pave the way for his wife Hillary Rodham Clinton’s appointment by President-elect Barack Obama as secretary of state. The two-day Clinton Global Initiative in Hong Kong marks the first time the former U.S. leader has held his annual charitable conference overseas—but it also will be the last while his wife holds her new job. Bill Clinton’s international business connections posed potential conflicts of interest for his wife’s post, and as part of the deal for her appointment, he agreed to stop holding the meetings overseas and to refuse donations from foreign governments. He also agreed to disclose every donor to his foundation since its inception in 1997, step away

# Campus Life

## Roselie Agulto wins Oleai's Geographic Bee

**R**oselie Agulto, a 6th grade student at Oleai Elementary School, won the school-level competition of the National Geographic Bee yesterday and a chance to a \$25,000 college scholarship. The school-level Bee, at which students answered oral questions on geography, was the first round in the 21<sup>st</sup> annual National Geographic Bee. The Bee is sponsored by the National Geographic Society.

The kickoff for this year's Bee was the week of Nov. 10, with thousands of schools around the United States and in five U.S. territories participating. The school winners, including Roselie, will now take a written test; up to 100 of the top scorers in each state will be eligible to compete in their state Bee on April 3, 2009.

The National Geographic Society



Photo shows Geographic Bee champion Roselie Agulto and 5th Grade student Jorwen Palma, second place winner.

## PGFC WINNERS

Green Meadow School students shone during the Primary Grade Forensic Conference held Nov. 15 at the San Vicente Elementary School. The following are the Green Meadow students who did well:

### 3-5 DIVISION (GRADES 3-5)

- 1st Place Dramatic Interpretation "B"  
Ma. Theresa Dalusong
- 1st Place Reader's Forum "A"  
Monica Aira Usi
- 1st Place Reader's Forum "G"  
Amelito Dalusong, Jr.
- 2nd Place Dramatic Interpretation "A"  
Chekaina Coloma
- 2nd Place Choral Speaking "C"  
Chekaina Coloma,  
Kathleen Trinidad,  
Dayne Suba,  
Monica Aira Usi
- 3rd Place Dramatic Interpretation "A"  
Bert Magallano
- 3rd Place Duo "A" Ian Lemuel Elnas,  
Piolo Gregorio
- 3rd Place Choral Speaking "B"  
Ma. Fatima Briones,  
Danielle Coloma,  
Kaela Mae Valencia
- 3rd Place Choral Speaking  
Keandre Desea, Bert Magallano,  
Joshua Saturno,  
Mary Grace Briones
- 4th Place Duo "C"  
Keandre Deseo,

- Mary Grace Briones
- 4th Place Reader's Forum "F"  
Dayne Suba
- 4th Place Dramatic Interpretation "B"  
Patricia Sablan
- 5th Place Humorous Interpretation "B"  
Amelito Dalusong Jr.
- 5th Place Humorous Interpretation "A"  
Piolo Gregorio

### K2 DIVISION (K5 2ND GRADE)

- 1st Place Reader's Forum MB  
Robin Reyes
- 1st Place Choral Speaking "A"  
Ryan Louis Divino,  
Gabrielle Shanikka Flores,  
Pionnah Rosej Gregorio,  
Franchesca Sophia Del Pilar,  
Anniea Sofia Saturno
- 1st Place Choral Speaking "C"  
Arvi Alfeche, Ian Ranin,  
Dustin Ross Salilin, Sean Ancheta,  
Ardel Ciolo
- 1st Place Duo "A"  
Deirdre Rosete,  
Kiana Joyce Valencia
- 2nd Place Choral Speaking  
Andrea Monique Agtarap,  
Angel Legaspi, Danielle Pineda,  
Robin Reyes, Tianna Talia  
Villagomez
- 2nd Place Impromptu Speaking  
Jerique Reineer Suba
- 3rd Place Humorous Interpretation "A"

- Angel Sean Legaspi
- 3rd Place Duo "C" Ryan Louis Divino,  
Anniea Sofia Saturno
- 3rd Place Choral Speaking  
Kristina Crisostomo,  
Jhanylin Cruz, Claire Marzan,  
Christine Palattao,  
Mikee Mendoza
- 4th Place Choral Speaking "C"  
Robin Agbayani, Paolo Cadag,  
Miguel Mallari, Aditya Rai,  
Elden Siguritan
- 5th Place Dramatic Interpretation "A"  
Pionnah Rosej Gregorio
- 5th Place Duo "C"  
Andrea Monique Agtarap,  
Gabrielle Shanikka Flores
- 5th Place Duo "A"  
Angel Mae Oropesa,  
Kimberly Dela Cruz
- 5th Place Choral Speaking "A"  
Kelley Acebo,  
Jemimah Borromeo,  
Natalie Hirshbein
- 5th Place Choral Speaking "C"  
Kianna Joyce Valencia,  
Deirdre Rosete,  
Angel Mae Oropesa,  
Kimberly Dela Cruz

### Coaches:

- K5- Ms. Sony Navidad
- 1st Grade- Ms. Moody Binuya
- 2nd & 4th Grade- Ms. Eleanor Alejo
- 3rd Grade- Ms. Marilyn Divino



Green Meadow School students pose for a picture after participating in the Primary Grade Forensic Conference held Nov. 15 at the San Vicente Elementary School.

will provide an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., for state champions and teacher-escorts to participate on the National Geographic Bee national championship on May 19 and 20, 2008.

The first place winner will receive a \$25,000 college scholarship and a lifetime membership in the Society. The winner will also travel (along with one parent or guardian), all expenses paid, to the Galapagos Islands with "Jeopardy!" host Alex Trebek for up-close encounters with the wildlife and landscape of Galapagos. Travel for the "Galapagos Adventure with

Alex Trebek" provided by Lindblad Expeditions and the National Geographic Society.

"Jeopardy!" host Alex Trebek will moderate the national finals on May 20. The program will air on television. Check local listings for the dates and times.

Everyone can test their geography knowledge with the new and exciting GeoBee Challenge, an online geography quiz at [www.nationalgeographic.com/geobee](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/geobee), which poses 10 new questions a day and allows players to e-mail their score to friends and challenge them to do better. (PR)

## MATH COURT WINNERS



Green Meadow School students who participated in the recent Math Court competition.

Green Meadow School students participated in Cycle II of the recent Math Court competition, focusing on Measurement and Geometry, Data Analysis, Statistics and Probability. The competition was held Nov. 8, 2008, and the following are the Green Meadow students who did well:

### K5

- 1st Place Geometry/Measurement  
Jhanylin Cruz
- 2nd Place Geometry/Measurement  
Natalie Hirshbein
- 3rd Place Geometry/Measurement  
Claire Marzan, Kelly Acebo,  
Ivan Sitchon
- 4th Place Geometry/Measurement  
Christian Palattao, Lester Satur

### 1ST GRADE

- 1st Place Data, Analysis, Statistics & Probability  
Jerique Reineer Suba
- 2nd Place Geometry/Measurement  
Art Vincent Alfeche
- 2nd Place Geometry/Measurement, Data, Analysis, Statistics & Probability  
Dustin Ross Salilin
- 2nd Place Geometry/Measurement  
Kiana Joyce Valencia
- 2nd Place Data, Analysis, Statistics & Probability  
Paulo Cadag
- 3rd Place Data, Analysis, Statistics & Probability  
Sean Ancheta
- 4th Place Data, Analysis, Statistics & Probability  
Kimberly Dela Cruz

### 2ND GRADE

- 1st Place Geometry/Measurement, Data, Analysis, Statistics & Probability  
Angel Legaspi
- 1st Place Data, Analysis, Statistics

- & Probability  
Danielle Pineda
- 2nd Place Geometry/Measurement  
Nikka Flores
- 2nd Place Geometry/Measurement  
Pionnah Gregorio
- 2nd Place Data, Analysis, Statistics & Probability  
Robin Reyes
- 3rd Place Data, Analysis, Statistics & Probability  
Pionnah Gregorio
- 3rd Place Geometry/Measurement  
Danielle Pineda
- 3rd Place Geometry/Measurement  
Robin Reyes

### 3RD GRADE

- 1st Place Data, Analysis, Statistics & Probability  
Kathleen Trinidad
- 2nd Place Geometry/Measurement  
Kathleen Trinidad
- 2nd Place Data, Analysis, Statistics & Probability  
Aira Usi
- 2nd Place Data, Analysis, Statistics & Probability  
Bert Magallano
- 3rd Place Geometry/Measurement  
Data, Analysis, Statistics & Probability  
Dayne Suba
- 3rd Place Data, Analysis, Statistics & Probability  
Keandre Deseo
- 4th Place Data, Analysis, Statistics & Probability  
Amelito Dalusong, Jr.

### 4TH GRADE

- 1st Place Geometry/Measurement  
Kaela Valencia
- 2nd Place Data, Analysis, Statistics & Probability  
Kaela Valencia
- 2nd Place Geometry/Measurement  
Danielle Coloma

## Life & Style

# Bedroom Bach? YouTube starts a cyber symphony

There's a new way to get to Carnegie Hall—YouTube, YouTube, YouTube.

Borrowing from "American Idol," the online video site announced plans Monday for a YouTube Symphony Orchestra, featuring a collaboration of wannabe musicians with Carnegie Hall, conductor Michael Tilson Thomas, composer Tan Dun and others.

Through Jan. 28, musicians can submit entries as they perform two videos: a display of their mu-

sical talents and an interpretation of an original work by Tan, who won an original-score Academy Award for 2000's "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon."

A panel of experts from some of the world's leading orchestras will narrow the field. YouTube users will then vote for the winners, who will be announced March 2.

In April, those selected will be flown to New York to participate in a three-day workshop with Thomas, culminating in a Carnegie Hall performance on April

15 of what Tan calls his "Internet Symphony No. 1—Eroica."

Clips of the video entries of Tan's piece—which immodestly shares the name of one of Beethoven's most famous works—will be woven together to create a living YouTube symphony.

"This thing is huge," Thomas, music director of the San Francisco Symphony, said in an interview Monday. "Five months from now, I know that we're doing something. Exactly who's

doing it, I don't know. Exactly what it is, I don't know. So my ability to tell you exactly what's going to happen on that day—at the moment—is: I don't know. That's part of the adventure of the whole thing."

The announcement heralds the beginning of a global initiative between YouTube and the classical music world with the enthusiastic participation of such luminaries as Thomas and the pianist Lang Lang, and many elite orchestras, including

the London Symphony.

It's a stark melding of high and low culture, complete with the "Idol"-style competition.

"The potential of YouTube is to bring classical music closer to people's lives so that it's something that they can reach out to more easily," said Thomas, who also plans to use YouTube to help tell the history of classical music.

Though it might be clear why classical music might be eager to find a younger audience online,

it's less evident why the Google Inc.-owned video site would endeavor to join forces with a music genre so much more sophisticated than the usual bedroom singing performances that largely populate its site.

"From our point of view, this is an exciting project because we're giving our users interaction with people that they haven't had before," said YouTube marketing executive Ed Sanders. "Classical music has embraced YouTube a lot more than people think." (AP)



In this image released by Vanity Fair, an image of actress and writer Tina Fey, taken by Annie Leibovitz, graces the cover of the January 2009 issue of "Vanity Fair" magazine, on sale nationwide on Dec. 9, 2008.

## Tina Fey, husband talk about scar in Vanity Fair interview

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Tina Fey's husband is talking about something the "30 Rock" actress would rather not discuss: the scar on her left cheek.

In an interview in Vanity Fair magazine, Jeff Richmond says a stranger slashed Fey's face when she was 5 years old. He

says the incident occurred in the front yard of her house.

Says Richmond: "That scar was fascinating to me. This is somebody who, no matter what it was, has gone through something. And I think it really informs the way she thinks about her life."

Fey says talking about the attack would seem like exploiting it.

Says Fey: "It's really almost like I'm able to forget about it, until I was on-camera, and it became a thing of 'Oh, I guess we should use this side' or whatever. Everybody's got a better side."

## Ex-hospital worker admits selling records

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—A former employee of UCLA Medical Center pleaded guilty Monday to selling information from the medical records of celebrities and high-profile patients, including Britney Spears and Farrah Fawcett, to the National Enquirer.

Lawanda Jackson, 49, spoke quietly as she entered her plea to the felony charge of violating federal medical privacy law for commercial purposes in U.S. District Court.

She faces a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison, followed by three years of supervised release, and a \$250,000 fine. Sentencing is set for May.

Jackson and her attorney, Angel Navarro, declined to comment after the hearing.

Jackson worked as an administrative specialist at the UCLA hospitals for 32 years and in recent years began using her supervisor's password to access medical records inappropriately, authorities said.

The tabloid deposited checks totaling at least \$4,600 into her husband's checking account

beginning in 2006, prosecutors said. Jackson resigned in July 2007 before she could be fired.

Jackson and state officials have disclosed that records for Spears, Fawcett and California first lady Maria Shriver were among those breached.

Fawcett's attorney, Kim Swartz, said in April that the star's cancer diagnosis and details of her treatment showed up in the National Enquirer after an employee at the hospital accessed her medical records.

U.S. attorney's spokesman Thom Mrozek said that no charges have been filed against the Enquirer or any other publications, but that the role of the media is part of the investigation into the privacy breaches.

"Certainly there is possible culpability at media outlets if we can determine that they were knowingly paying for the illegal access of celebrity files," Mrozek said.

A lawyer for the Enquirer did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

The Los Angeles Times first reported that UCLA employees

pried into the medical records of prominent patients in April, resulting in six state public health investigation reports.

Those reports found that a total of 1,041 patients had their records inappropriately accessed at UCLA medical facilities since 2003, and that 165 hospital employees—from doctors to orderlies—were disciplined through firings, suspensions and warnings.

UCLA Health Systems issued a brief statement indicating the hospitals would continue to cooperate with authorities in patient privacy investigations but declined to comment on the Jackson case.

Anthony Montero, a special assistant to the U.S. attorney, said another former UCLA Health Systems employee, Huping Zhou, was indicted Nov. 17 on suspicion of inappropriately accessing 71 celebrity medical records but is not accused of selling any information.

Zhou is scheduled for arraignment this month. A man who identified himself over the telephone as Huping Zhou declined to talk to The Associated Press.

## Estranged relative arrested in Hudson killings

**CHICAGO** (AP)—Police arrested the estranged brother-in-law of Jennifer Hudson on Monday in the shooting deaths of the entertainer's mother, brother and young nephew, taking him from a prison where he had been held on a suspected parole violation.

William Balfour, 27, was arrested at Stateville Correctional Center on a warrant accusing him of murdering the relatives of the singer and Oscar-winning actress, Chicago police spokeswoman Monique Bond said.

Until Monday, police had identified Balfour only as a "person of interest" in the investigation. He had not been formally charged as of Monday night, said Tandra Simonton, spokeswoman for the Cook County state's attorney's office.

Balfour's attorney said Monday night his client told him he is innocent.

"He vehemently denies that he is guilty in this case," Joshua Kutnick told reporters outside police headquarters. "Any evidence pointing to Mr. Balfour is not even thin. It is very, very weak."

The bodies of Jennifer Hudson's mother, Damell Hudson Donerson, and brother, Jason Hudson, were discovered Oct. 24 at the family's home on the South Side of Chicago. The body of 7-year-old Julian King was found three days later in a sport utility vehicle on the West Side. All three had been shot.

Police took Balfour into custody the same day the bodies of Donerson and Hudson were discovered. After 48 hours—the longest Chicago police can

hold a person without charges—Balfour was taken by the Illinois Department of Corrections on the suspected parole violation.

Balfour—Julian's stepfather and the estranged husband of Jennifer Hudson's older sister, Julia Hudson—served seven years for a 1999 attempted murder and vehicular hijacking conviction.

Balfour had refused to take a lie-detector test and stopped cooperating with detectives, according to a police official who was not authorized to discuss the case publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Police have confirmed they found the gun used in the killings. The .45-caliber gun was discovered Oct. 29 in a vacant lot in the West Side neighborhood where King's body was found a few days earlier.

# 'Kung Fu Panda' leads animation award nominations



AP

A woman views "Woman with blue hat", a 1889 oil pastel on blue paper by French painter Edgar Degas, seen at Christie's Paris auction house, Friday, Nov. 28, 2008.

## Paris auction of Impressionist works falls short

**PARIS** (AP)—A benchmark Paris sale of Impressionist and Modern paintings that belonged to French fashion designer Jeanne Lanvin fell well short of pre-sale expectations Monday, in a clear signal the financial crisis is hitting the previously resilient art market.

Christie's auction house said in a statement it raised euro7.67 million (\$9.67 million) at its evening sale of works by artists including Pablo Picasso and Pierre-Auguste Renoir. It had originally valued the collection at euro20 million (\$25.2 million).

The highest-selling work in the sale was Renoir's "Woman with a Parasol Sitting in the Garden," which fetched euro1.16 million (\$1.46 million) below its estimate of euro1.2

million (\$1.51 million) to euro1.8 million (\$2.27 million), according to Christie's.

Only 23 of the 31 lots were sold, it said. Among the paintings that failed to find a buyer was Renoir's "The Tapestry in the Park (Presumed Portrait of Camille Monet)," which had been estimated at euro2.5 million (\$3.15 million) to euro3.5 million (\$4.41 million).

Further works by artists including Edgar Degas, Eugene Boudin and Camille Pissarro also stayed on the shelf.

"Unsold works are the reflection of estimates considered excessive by the current market, while those paintings with reasonable estimates drew great interest from international collectors," Anika Guntrum, head

of Christie's Impressionist and Modern Art department, said in the statement.

Lanvin, who died in 1946 at the age of 79, started off making clothes for her daughter. She went on to become one of France's most influential designers of the 1920s and '30s, creating the classic fragrance "Arpege."

The paintings originally hung in her Paris apartment, designed by the architect and interior designer Armand-Albert Rateau. A portion of the interior is now on show at the Musee des Arts Decoratifs in Paris.

A portion of the proceeds from the sale will go toward two arts charities run by the Polignac dynasty, the aristocratic family which Lanvin's daughter Marie-Blanche married into.

**HOLLYWOOD**—"Bolt," "Kung Fu Panda," "Wall-E," "Waltz With Bashir" and "9.99" were nominated Monday by the International Animated Film Society for best animated feature for the 36th annual Annie Awards. The awards honor the year's best animated features, TV productions, commercials, video games and short subjects.

DreamWorks Animation's "Kung Fu Panda" received 17 nominations, more than any other film. In addition to best animated feature, the box-office hit earned recognition in the character animation, character design, directing, music, production design, storyboarding, voice acting and writing categories.

Walt Disney Animation Stu-

dio's current hit "Bolt" received nine nominations, and Pixar Animation Studio's summer blockbuster "Wall-E" earned eight.

Leading the pack on the television front was cable's Nickelodeon with 12 nominations, including two for best animated TV production for children for "Avatar: The Last Airbender" and "The Mighty B!" Cartoon Network Studio's "Foster's Home for Imaginary Friends," "Underfist: Halloween Bash" and Warner Bros. Animation's "A Miser Brothers' Christmas" round out that category.

Nominees in the best animated TV production are Disney Television Animation's "Phineas and Ferb," Gracie Films/Fox TV's "The Simpsons," 20th Century Fox TV's "King of the

Hill" and ShadowMachine's "Moral Orel" and "Robot Chicken: Star Wars Episode II."

Mike Judge, John Lasseter and Nick Park were announced as the recipients of the Winsor McCay special award for career contributions to the art of animation; Bill Turner was named this year's recipient of the June Foray Award for "significant and benevolent or charitable impact on the art and industry of animation"; and Amir Avini, Mike Fontanelli, Kathy Turner and Alex Vassilev received the certificate of merit award.

The winners will be announced Jan. 30 at the gala award ceremony in Los Angeles. For a complete list of nominations, go to [annieawards.org](http://annieawards.org). (Los Angeles Times)

## In Celebration of His New Life



### JUAN WESLEY TORRES

Born: May 22, 1952

Was called to his eternal life on Wednesday, November 26, 2008

#### IN HIS NEW LIFE, HE NOW JOINS HIS:

Father: Jesus Arriola Torres  
Mother: Francisca Wesley Torres  
Brothers: Jose W. Torres & Joseph W. Torres  
Stepfather In-Law: Pedro Magofna

#### His love and memories will live in the hearts of his:

Wife: Barbara Ada Torres  
Children: Frances Torres/Ray Diaz  
Eric John, Audrey Jo  
Granddaughter: Rayanna T. Diaz  
Mother In-Law: Ana A. Magofna

#### His love and memories will live in the hearts of his brothers/sisters/spouses/children

Pedro W. & Margarita C. Torres (Bertha, Jackie, Peter Jr., Jesse & Risha)  
Rita T. & Malcolm Weidner (Frances & Cathy)  
Jesus W. & Tatiana Torres (Jamie, Janel, Vladik & Nicole)  
Francisco W. & Diana C. Torres (Pamela, Kalani, Jeffrey & Frank Jr.)  
Magdalena W. Torres & Martin DLC. Tenorio (Peter, Julie, Michelle & Tim)  
†Joseph W. & Rosita C. Torres (Joseph, Robert & Norman)  
Theresita T. & James Applebaum (Renee & Rachel)  
Matilde T. & Larry Gozrulak (Jessica, Jennifer & Joey)  
Margarita W. Torres & Dr. Vicente S. Aldan (T.J., Vicente & Pomaikai)  
Maria T. & Norman Peters (Jason & Tabitha)  
Roman W. Torres (Ashley, Fermin, Dionne, Audrey & Ryen)

#### Brothers-In-Laws:

William Ada/Louise Concepcion (Frances, Keith, Joanna, Shanette, Aileen, Naomi, Richard & Moeisha) Francisco & Joyce Ada (Jonathan & Ann Marie)

He is also survived by numerous nieces/nieces-in-law, nephews/nephews-in-law.

Holy Rosary is being said nightly at Kristo Rai Church at 7:00 p.m. Daily Mass is being offered every day at 6:00 a.m. at Kristo Rai Church. His body will be escorted from Nuestra Señora Dela Paz Memorial Chapel to Kristo Rai Church at 7:30 a.m. on Thursday, December 4, 2008. Christian Burial Mass will be at 10:00 a.m. Burial will follow at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

*Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase Ginen I Familia*



AP

## WORLD AIDS DAY

Spanish actress Penelope Cruz attends the opening of the 'Unbreakable Kiss' Mistletoe Installation in association with World AIDS Day, at Madison Square Park on Monday, Dec. 1, 2008 in New York.

## Ivana Trump and Rubicondi split

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Ivana Trump has issued a statement confirming reports of marital discord with Italian entrepreneur Rossano Rubicondi.

Trump, who married Rubicondi in April, says she filed a legal separation agreement three months ago. Trump says she kept quiet about it because she didn't want to ruin Rubicondi's chances as a contestant on the Italian edition of the reality TV show "Survivor."

Rubicondi is Trump's fourth husband. After about six years of dating, they tied the knot in a lavish ceremony at her ex-husband Donald Trump's estate in Palm Beach, Florida.

Says Trump: "Rossano wants to live in Miami and work in Milan. ... But, I am a New Yorker and my family, friends and businesses are here. As the beautiful song says, 'Que sera sera!'"

# 'Circus' shows Spears is ready for the big show again

By ANN POWERS

(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

## Britney Spears

*Circus (Jive/Zomba)*

☆☆



AP

In this image released by Jive Records, the latest CD for Britney Spears, "Circus," is shown.

It's time for the annual declaration: Britney Spears is not going away. Last year she might have seemed like a human Superfund site, oozing bad fumes and impossible to repair—but in 13 short months, she's churned out a perfectly viable album that telegraphs self-awareness, sexual confidence and her most sought-after commodity, control.

"Circus" already has given her a big hit, the "Cabaret"-meets-"Flashdance"-flavored "Womanizer," and considering the expensive production credits neatly lined up on each track, more seem inevitable. Then there will be the tour, which should be great, if she can keep herself from crying uncontrollably because she misses her kids and the pressure is really getting her down. But, hey, there's always Xanax.

As tabloid fodder, Spears remains a New Marilyn, embodying lust and disaster in every swing of her hips. Musically, she turned a corner with 2004's "Toxic," when she fully matured into her role as a vehicle for other people's experiments. Last year's "Blackout" worked well as daring dance-pop, but Spears was too absent for comfort. On many songs, her presence was almost indiscernible, carefully buried within

## Britney Spears tops Yahoo searches

LOS ANGELES (AP)—She did it again: Britney Spears was the most popular search term on Yahoo for the fourth year in a row—her seventh time topping the list.

Spears bested World Wrestling Entertainment, Barack Obama, Miley Cyrus and the online game "Runescape" as the five most-searched terms of 2008, the Web portal and search company announced Monday, a day before the singer released her new album "Circus."

Jessica Alba, the anime series "Naruto," Lindsay Lohan, Angelina Jolie and "American Idol" rounded out the top 10 list. To compile their year-end review, Yahoo editors analyze search queries based on "absolute volume and growth versus previous periods, to see which themes and trends bubble to the surface." Users and their search queries remain anonymous.

Spears also continues to be a ratings draw on television, too. The Saturday episode of the British talent show "The X Factor," which featured an appearance by Spears, attracted 12.6 million viewers, the show's biggest audience, The Guardian reported Monday. Ratings for the Sunday premiere of Spears' MTV special, "Britney: For the Record," weren't yet available.

### Yahoo top 10 overall searches for 2008:

- 1. Britney Spears
- 2. WWE (World Wrestling Entertainment)
- 3. Barack Obama
- 4. Miley Cyrus
- 5. "Runescape"
- 6. Jessica Alba
- 7. "Naruto"
- 8. Lindsay Lohan
- 9. Angelina Jolie
- 10. American Idol

layers of effects and heavy singing support from Keri Hilson and other studio A-listers.



AP

US singer Britney Spears performs during the Bambi 2008 media award ceremony in Offenburg, Germany, Thursday, Nov. 27, 2008.

Not so on "Circus," whose up-tempo songs foreground Spears' mildly sultry bark and whose ballads have

her hiccuping emotion from deep in the back of her throat.

She's also game for any vocal tricks

her producers suggest, squealing and giggling and even trying on a fairly horrific pan-Latin accent in "Mmm Papi." That song recalls nothing so much as Rosemary Clooney's "Come On-a My House," which came from the time when even great jazz singers sometimes made a buck by wearing fruit on their heads.

Obvious jokes fit in well on "Circus": With its dominatrix rhythms and loud, highly compressed mix, it's meant to slap listeners in the face. Spears' favorite producers, including Max Martin, Dr. Luke and Nathaniel "Danja" Hills, have settled on a style that updates vampy show-tune melodies with sharp, metallic effects. The cartoonish sound compensates for Spears' lack of range and lung power by allowing her to ham it up.

She does so with the skill of a life-long child star. But the overall effect is hardening, as one bump-and-grind fades into another.

The lyrics about Britney as mannequin, sex object, paparazzi victim and leather-clad mistress have grown tedious. When the wittiest one is based on an adolescent text-message-style joke, you know it's time to refocus.

That might be why "Unusual You," a ballad from Bloodshy & Avant, stands out. It goes for that shimmering waterfall mood first popularized by Janet Jackson rather than strict Madonna-style workouts.

The other notable slow song is "Baby," one of only two co-written by Spears. (The other is, forgive her, "Mmm Papi.") It's a clumsily phrased love letter to one—which one, and why only one?—of her sons, and although it's nowhere near as sophisticated as anything else on "Circus," it communicates some of the seam-bursting humanity that generates so much interest in Spears as a celebrity.

Hackneyed as it is, "Baby" is a reminder that Spears is still a young woman trying to manage an impossible situation.

But those aren't the thoughts "Circus" is meant to raise, and in general the album does a bang-up job of pushing them into the background.

And, really, that tour is going to be great.

## Dunst gets order against alleged stalker



AP

In this Oct. 9, 2007 file photo, Kirsten Dunst arrives for the premiere of "Glamour Reel Moments," in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kirsten Dunst doesn't need Spider-Man—she's got an assistant who recently proved capable of protecting the actress.

Dunst's assistant performed a citizen's arrest on a man who bypassed security and showed up at the actress' Hollywood home in November. Dunst was not home at the time.

Police and Dunst sought a restraining order against Christopher Smith after his Nov. 20 arrest. Documents show state police have found Smith at Dunst's home several times in recent weeks.

The actress wrote she is "quite frightened" of Smith, whom she has never met.

Records do not indicate whether Smith has an attorney. He is due in court later this month on a trespassing charge. Dunst's restraining order could be made extended on Dec. 22.

## Chris Brown a big hit with on-demand viewers



NEW YORK (AP)—Chris Brown is in demand with on-demand viewers.

The TV on-demand service Music Choice said Monday the soul singer was its most requested artist in a one-year period ending in September. Fans ordered free plays of Brown's videos or interviews 43 million times.

Music Choice honored Brown on its first "Most Demanded" awards show that was available—logically enough—on-demand starting Monday.

Network executive Damon Williams said teenage girls were primarily responsible for Brown's win. He said fans would invite friends over to watch or show off the video on their cell phones.

The Jonas Brothers and Lil Wayne were big draws, too. Wayne's "Lollipop" video was seen 12 million times.

Despite being available in less than one-third of the nation's TV homes, Music Choice says it is behind only YouTube as a popular place for people to seek out music videos on demand.

Music Choice, perhaps better known for its suite of channels that play different genres of music, sees growth opportunity with its on-demand features, Williams said. Surveys show fewer than 10 percent of the people who have the capability of getting on-demand video actually use the service, he said.

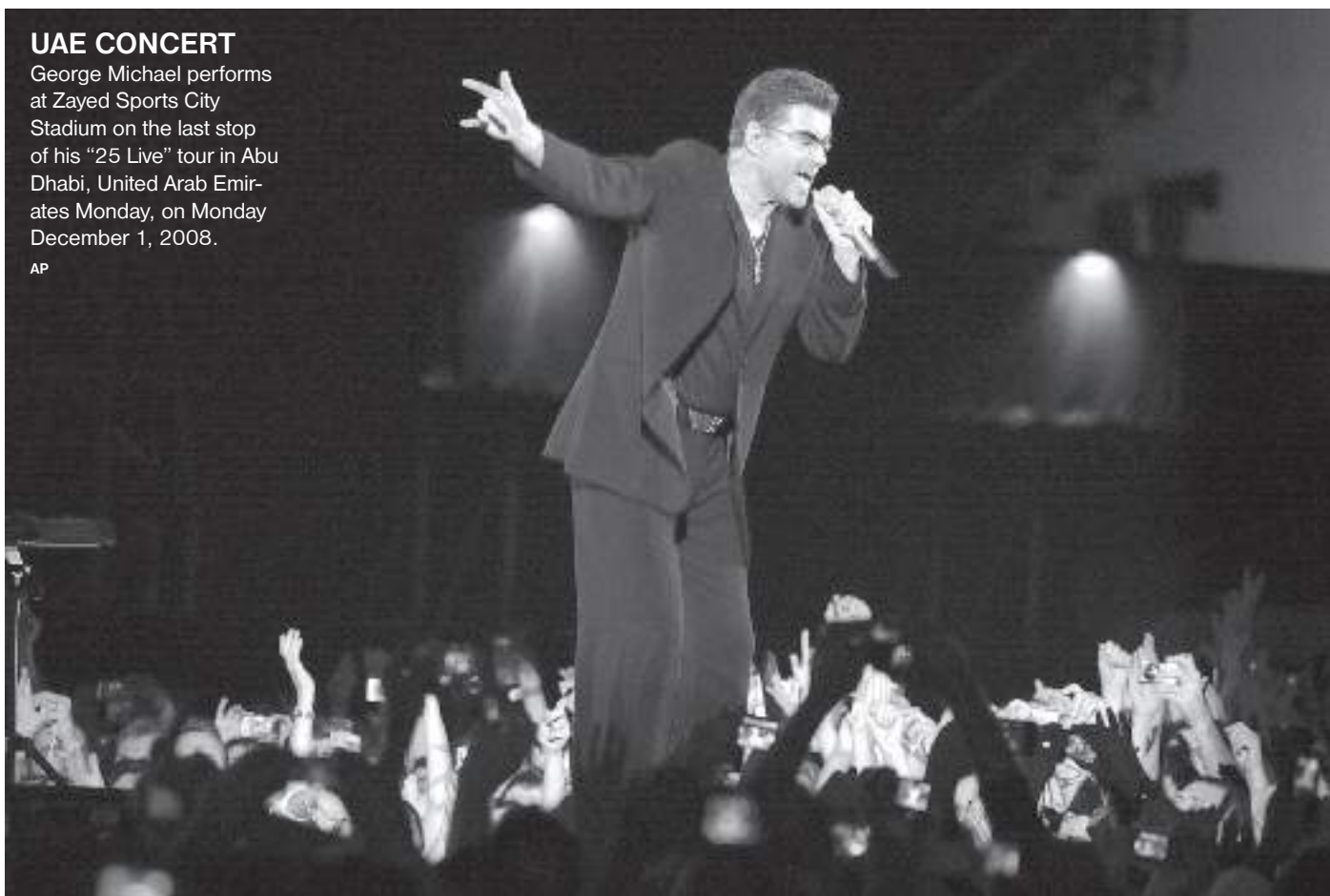
In this Nov. 23, 2008 file photo, Chris Brown accepts the artist of the year award at the American Music Awards in Los Angeles.

AP

**UAE CONCERT**

George Michael performs at Zayed Sports City Stadium on the last stop of his "25 Live" tour in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates Monday, on Monday December 1, 2008.

AP



# Boy George denies he intended to hurt escort

**LONDON** (AP)—Singer Boy George admits in a recording played in a London court that he restrained a male escort with handcuffs.

But the former Culture Club singer says he had no intention

of hurting the man. He also denies he tried to assault the escort or that he swung a chain at him.

The singer, whose real name is George O'Dowd, is on trial for the false imprisonment of

29-year-old Audun Carlsen.

O'Dowd says in a police recording played Monday that he asked Carlsen to come to his apartment. O'Dowd says he wanted to ask Carlsen if he had

tampered with his laptop.

The '80s pop icon has a history of drug abuse and served a community service sentence in 2006 in the United States after falsely reporting a burglary.



Limbaugh

## Rush Limbaugh endorses Clinton for Obama's cabinet

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Rush Limbaugh has seldom been a fan of Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton. But the conservative radio pundit has given his blessing to her selection as the next secretary of state.

He calls it "a brilliant stroke" by President-elect Barack Obama, who opposed Clinton for the Democratic nomination.

Limbaugh weighs in on the new administration as one of Barbara Walters' "10 Most Fascinating People of 2008," which airs Thursday on ABC.

Says Limbaugh: "You know the old phrase, 'You keep your friends close and your enemies closer?' How can she run for president in 2012? She'd have to run against the incumbent and be critical of him—the one who made her secretary of state."

On Monday, Obama announced Clinton as his nominee for secretary of state.

## Lopez in talks to host Miss America again

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Mario Lopez is in negotiations to once again host the Miss America pageant.

TLC and the Miss America Organization said Monday that the 35-year-old "Extra" host is in negotiations to serve as master of ceremonies for the live Jan. 24 ceremony in Las Vegas.

He previously hosted the pageant in 2007.

TLC's programming vice president, Brent Zacky, said: "Mario and the Miss America Organization's past relationship has proven beneficial and we look forward to having him in Vegas again this year."

In this Sept. 26, 2008 file photo, Mario Lopez arrives at the EA Sports "NBA Live 09" launch party in Los Angeles.

AP



## Travis Barker and DJ AM to reunite for performance

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Punk musician Travis Barker and celebrity disc jockey DJ AM will perform together for the first time since the duo survived a fiery plane crash in South Carolina.

The former Blink-182 drummer and DJ AM, whose real name is Adam Goldstein, will headline New Year's Nation's Los Angeles

New Year's Eve Party at The Lot in West Hollywood.

"I'm ready to get back on stage with AM and continue to rock the house," Barker said in a statement. "I'm very excited to bring in the New Year in my hometown of L.A."

The performance will be streamed on the Internet and

broadcast at other New Year's Nation parties across the U.S. It will mark the first concert for the pair—who go by TRVSD-JAM—since they performed at a free concert for about 10,000 people in Columbia, S.C., before boarding a private plane Sept. 19 for Los Angeles that crashed and killed four people.

## Raconteurs call on Ricky Skaggs for new recording



White

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** (AP)—Jack White and his band the Raconteurs called on Ricky Skaggs to help them record a bluegrass-inspired version of their song "Old Enough."

The Nashville-based rock band also brought in country singer Ashley Monroe for the track, which originally appeared on their album "Consoners Of the Lonely."

The new version will be released as a single exclusively through Amazon.com beginning Tuesday before going to other digital retailers and to stores next week.

Raconteurs drummer Patrick Keeler says the group wanted to show a different side of their music and work with a couple of Nashville artists they respect.

## Man lands in hot water after son spills the beans

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**DEAR ABBY:** My husband and I are still at odds over something that happened months ago. He, his best friend and my 13-year-old son, "Mark," went to spring training in Florida. On one of the days, they went to lunch at a restaurant that features scantily clad waitresses. My husband told Mark not to tell me about it and to leave the telling to him.

When they returned home on Sunday after their three-day weekend, Mark let it slip where they had gone for lunch one day. I hit the roof!

Mark is a very young 13. I was furious that my husband took him to a place that Mark described as making him feel "uncomfortable" because of all the skin that was being shown. After I jumped on my husband for doing it, I heard him outside yelling at Mark for telling me before he had a chance to.

I'm being accused of overreacting, Abby. Am I?

PROTECTIVE LIONESS IN ATLANTA



*Dear Abby*

**DEAR LIONESS:** I don't think so. If your husband had been proud of what he had done, he wouldn't have asked Mark to keep it a secret. His request was both dishonest and sexist. It was an invitation to your son to join the "boy's club" and exclude you, and it makes me wonder what the next indiscretion your son would have been asked to cover up would have involved.

■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** I'm a normal 10-year-old girl, but when my mom gets mad, I get scared. She doesn't hit me, but I still feel panicked when she's mad.

My siblings have told me they're scared of her, too. I don't have anyone to turn to because my mom and dad are both only children.

Please tell me what to do. Should I wait until I'm older, or should I say something now? I'm confused and really scared of her. What should I do?

SCARED IN SAN DIEGO

**DEAR SCARED:** Talk to your mother about your feelings now. You are reaching an age when you should be able to safely confide all of your concerns to her and be able to communicate without being afraid she will overreact. Because you and your siblings are all afraid, your mother may be expressing her frustration in a way that is not appropriate.

If the situation doesn't improve after you and your siblings talk to her, perhaps another adult can make her understand her behavior is counterproductive. Your dad, a close friend of hers, the mother of one of your friends, or a trusted teacher or school counselor may be able to help.

■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** What do I do about my aging mother who says whatever pops into her head as if she has no filter? Lately, she has been blurting out racial slurs. Abby, this is not the way we were raised.

Is my mother getting dementia? And when she does this in public, what do I say to the person she has just insulted?

MAMA'S DAUGHTER

**DEAR DAUGHTER:** Your mother may have some form of dementia—and you and rest of the family should inform her doctor so that Mama can get a physical and neurological workup to find out why her behavior has changed so radically.

As to what to say to the people at whom she targets her racial slurs, simply say, "Please forgive my mother. She's had another lapse, and she's not herself."

Believe me, you have my sympathy.

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

*To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)*



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*Attorney for Administrator*

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT  
FOR THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| IN RE THE<br>ESTATE OF | ) CIVIL ACTION<br>) NO. 08-0360                        |
| BERNADITA<br>T. RANKIN | ) AMENDED<br>) NOTICE OF<br>) HEARING ON<br>) PETITION |
| Decedent.              | ) RULES 11 & 16<br>) COM R.PRO.                        |
|                        | ) Date : Dec. 30, 2008                                 |
|                        | ) Time : 1:30 p.m.                                     |
|                        | ) Judge : Hon. Robert<br>C. Naraja                     |

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**  
that Petitioner, Marlie Rankin, filed a  
Petition in the Superior Court praying that  
she appointed Administrator of the Estate of  
Bernadita T. Rankin, deceased to determine  
the heirs of the decedent and distribute any  
assets of decedent. The attorney of record is  
Colin M. Thompson, at PMB 917, Box  
10001, Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition is set  
for **December 30, 2008**, in a courtroom of  
the Superior Court, Susupe, Saipan, at  
**1:30 p.m.** All interested person should  
appear at this hearing.

All person having claims against the  
estate, or against the decedent should file  
their claims with the Clerk of Court for the  
Superior Court within sixty (60) days after  
the first publication of this notice.

Date this \_\_\_\_\_ day of November,  
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By: Deputy Clerk of Court

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# Heat rally in final seconds of OT to beat Warriors

**OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—**Chris Quinn hit a tying 3-pointer with 7.1 seconds left in overtime, Michael Beasley stole the ensuing inbounds pass and made the decisive free throw, and the Miami Heat pulled off a wild 130-129 comeback win over the Golden State Warriors on Monday night.

Jamal Crawford missed a running jumper at the buzzer and sprawled himself on the court in frustration as the Warriors dropped their seventh straight game, one they had in their grasp until the waning moments. Crawford is winless since joining Golden State in a trade from New York on Nov. 21 that sent Al Harrington to the Knicks.

Crawford scored six of his 40 points in overtime and dished out seven assists, but his team fell short again.

Udonis Haslem scored on a putback for Miami at the buzzer of regulation to force the extra session.

With his team up 125-123 with 28.8 seconds left in OT, Golden State's Ronny Turiaf swatted Dwyane Wade for his fifth blocked shot of the game. Wade converted a three-point play with 15.1 seconds to go that cut it to 127-126 before Crawford hit two free throws on the other end.

Wade finished with 37 points and 13 assists, and Haslem and Shawn Marion each had 21 points. Beasley, who jumped in front of Andris Biedrins' inbounds pass at the end, added 19 points and six rebounds off the bench.

The Heat are 2-2 on their five-game West Coast swing that ends Wednesday at Utah. Miami lost 97-96 to the Clippers in Los Angeles on Saturday, so this was a nice—albeit tough—way to get back on track.

Crawford shot 11-for-22 and made 14 of 16 free throws en route to his seventh career game with 40 or more points.

But the Warriors got sloppy with the ball on offense late in the game and allowed Miami some key second-chance points that kept the Heat close.

Corey Maggette had 29 points, Biedrins 17 points and 15 boards and Brandon Wright 16 points for a Warriors team that went 0-5 on its recent



Miami Heat forward Michael Beasley (30) shoots past Golden State Warriors forward Brandon Wright (32) during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Oakland, Calif., Monday, Dec. 1, 2008.

road trip. It was Golden State's first 0-5 trip since the 2003-04 season.

Coach Don Nelson said before the game he already knows he doesn't have a playoff team this season - a somewhat bold statement at this early stage.

"I like the team for the future. I've got a lot of guys that aren't ready yet," Nelson said, noting he's focused on getting his team to play hard every night and win as much as possible during this rebuilding process. "We have some deficiencies as a team. One of them is passing. We're not a

good passing team. Our trade helps that, gives us another passer. We're not strong defenders."

Wade has put together three straight strong games. He scored a team-best 26 points and tied a season high with 11 assists against the Clippers on Saturday night but missed a 3-pointer that could have won it. That performance came after he scored a season-best 43 points in a win at Phoenix the previous night.

In his three previous visits to Oakland, Wade averaged 29 points and 10 assists.

Crawford converted a four-point play in the second quarter for the Warriors, hitting a baseline 3 and getting fouled by Beasley. That helped Golden State to a 64-60 lead at the break and was the Warriors' first four-point play this season.

Warriors leading scorer Stephen Jackson returned after missing Saturday's loss to the Knicks, but he was far from sharp. Jackson, who aggravated his sprained left wrist in a loss Friday at Cleveland, had just eight points on 2-for-11 shoot-

ing and added 11 assists.

## Celtics 107, Magic 88

At Boston, Paul Pierce scored 17 of his 24 points in the third quarter to lead the Boston Celtics to their ninth straight win, over the Orlando Magic.

Ray Allen added 21 points, Rajon Rondo had 16 points with 12 assists and Kevin Garnett scored 15 points for the Celtics (17-2) in a matchup of Eastern Conference division leaders.

Rashard Lewis paced Orlando (13-5) with 30 points. Hedo Turkoglu had 19 and Dwight Howard, the NBA's leading rebounder, added 14 points with 15 boards.

The Magic had their four-game winning streak snapped. Orlando had won six straight road games, one short of its club record set at the start of last season.

Pierce, who scored five points in the opening half, carried the Celtics from a two-point halftime edge to a 12-point lead entering the fourth quarter.

## Bobcats 100, Timberwolves 90

At Charlotte, North Carolina, Jason Richardson scored 25 points in another strong performance following arthroscopic knee surgery, and Charlotte beat error-prone Minnesota.

It was the third straight game of at least 21 points for Richardson since his return after sitting out seven contests following exploratory surgery on his right knee. He led an efficient offense that included a season-high 24 points from Emeka Okafor, while Raymond Felton added 14 assists with only one turnover.

Randy Foye scored 23 points and Mike Miller added 19 points and 10 rebounds for the Timberwolves, who were never in sync in their second straight loss. Top scorer Al Jefferson was held to eight points on 3-of-11 shooting and Minnesota committed 14 of its 18 turnovers in the first half.

It was the end to a bad day for the Timberwolves, who learned in the morning that top defender Corey Brewer will miss the rest of the season with a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee.

## Marbury's Knicks status 'not resolved' in meeting

**GREENBURGH, N.Y. (AP)—**Stephon Marbury was ordered to stay away from the New York Knicks on Monday while the team looks for a solution to the latest controversy surrounding its point guard.

"After meeting with Stephon and his representative this afternoon, we have directed Stephon not to participate in practice or attend games until further notice," Knicks president Donnie Walsh said in a statement. "We want to continue to meet with him to discuss a long-term resolution."

Marbury's future with the Knicks was "not resolved" during his meeting with Walsh, according to the players' association attorney representing him.

Marbury arrived at the team's practice facility at 2:25 p.m. and met with Walsh for about 20 minutes. His representative, Hal Biagas, walked out of the building shortly after 3 p.m. and into the car where Marbury was waiting.

"(We'll) try to keep this in house and so no comment at this time," Biagas said. "We'll keep you posted

if things happen."

Walsh suspended Marbury for one game without pay and docked him an additional game's salary last week after the Knicks said the point guard refused coach Mike D'Antoni's request to play in a loss to Detroit last Wednesday.

Biagas wouldn't say if Marbury, who was penalized nearly \$400,000, was reinstated or if there had been any progress toward a buyout.

"We had a conversation," he said.

Marbury wants out of New York and lashed out at teammates and coach Mike D'Antoni in Monday's New York Post.

"I sat there for three weeks and didn't say one word," Marbury told The Post. "I didn't hear one of my teammates say, 'Why isn't Stephon Marbury playing? This is a good system for him, even to play with the second unit and bring more firepower.'"

"When things got bad and then worse, guys like Quentin Richardson say, 'I don't consider him a teammate. He let his teammates out to dry.' He

didn't care I was his teammate when I was banished. They left me out for dead. It's like we're in a foxhole and I'm facing the other way. If I got shot in the head, at least you want to get shot by the enemy. I got shot in the head by my own guys in my foxhole. And they didn't even give me an honorable death."

Knicks players have grown tired of the repeated controversies caused by Marbury, especially because they'd like more focus on their improved play this season. New York (8-8) ended November at .500 or better for the first time since going 7-6 in 2004.

"I don't know what to say to that, more than I'm sorry he feels that way and I don't get the impression that we've done that," forward David Lee said. "But moving forward, as I said, this has just got to get taken care of whenever it gets taken care of and we've just got to focus on winning. And buying into comments like that or responding to them does nothing more than take the focus

off our team and winning."

Richardson criticized Marbury after the game in Detroit, when the Knicks were forced to play short-handed after injuries and trades. He seemed amused when asked about Marbury's comments after practice.

"He's entitled to his opinion just like I am. And obviously I said what I said and he feels differently about that, and he's entitled to that," Richardson said. "The main thing we want to do is we want to play basketball and win games. These aren't the things we want to come off the court and talk about."

Marbury isn't part of D'Antoni's plans and has been on the inactive list most of the season. However, D'Antoni twice asked Marbury if he would play when the Knicks were undermanned.

"Mike had no intentions of me playing basketball here," Marbury said. "He gave me straight disrespect. It was beyond disrespect. He put in (Danilo) Gallinari, whose back is messed up and (who) didn't participate at all in training camp ahead of me (in the season opener). ... That's saying, 'I'm letting you have it right

now.' He was sticking it to me."

Marbury also blasted D'Antoni in another interview with the Post last week, saying he didn't trust the coach. Asked about Marbury's comments about playing time, D'Antoni said: "I hate that. Obviously he's in a tough position and I don't think anybody's thrilled with where anybody is, but that's not really true. Again, I'm sure he feels that way and I can understand."

Walsh has said he's opposed to buyouts and agreed that it's difficult to trade Marbury because of his salary of approximately \$21 million.

"He (D'Antoni) knew I was in my contract year and did everything they asked me to do. He's not trying to help me. He's trying to hurt me," Marbury said.

Marbury also criticized Walsh for only asking D'Antoni about their conversation in Detroit.

"He suspended me without hearing both sides," Marbury said. "That wasn't fair. He took it upon himself to fine me without even speaking to me."

# Williams, Slaton lead Texans past Jags



**HOUSTON (AP)**—Mario Williams, Steve Slaton and the Houston Texans put on quite a show in their Monday Night Football debut.

Williams had a season-high three sacks and forced a fumble and Slaton ran for a pair of touchdowns to lead the Texans to a 30-17 win over the slumping Jacksonville Jaguars.

Andre Johnson added a TD recep-

gave us tremendous opportunities.”

Slaton scored on the next play to make it 23-3 with about 5 minutes left. The rookie tacked on a 40-yard TD run and finished with 130 yards rushing on 21 carries. He also had two catches for 52 yards.

“Nothing’s too big for him,” Kubiak said. “To watch him get stronger at the end of the game is impressive.”

Slaton approached Kubiak at half-

since Nov. 21, 1994, when the New York Giants beat the Oilers 13-10 at the Astrodome.

Sage Rosenfels, making his fourth consecutive start in place of injured Texans quarterback Matt Schaub, threw for 200 yards and a score with an interception.

Williams, who has 11 sacks this season, thrived once again in the prime-time spotlight. In his only other night

Down by 13 and facing fourth-and-2, Garrard found Matt Jones on a 27-yard pass that got Jacksonville down to the 6 early in the fourth quarter. The Jaguars managed just 1 yard in the next three plays and went for it again on fourth down.

This time Garrard’s feet got tangled with a teammate and he crashed to the ground. He got up and flipped the ball toward the end zone as he was hit, but the pass was broken up by Fred Bennett. Coach Jack Del Rio could only shake his head as he watched the play unfold.

Garrard was 25-of-35 for 287 yards with a touchdown and an interception.

The Jaguars’ only TDs came in the last 3 minutes with the game out of reach. Fred Taylor went in from the 4 to cut it to 23-10 and Reggie Williams scored on an 18-yard reception with 45 seconds left.

Slaton had a nifty 46-yard catch and run in the third quarter that got Houston down to the 1. Slaton failed to score on three straight runs and Houston settled for a 20-yard field goal by Brown that made it 16-3.

Brown kicked his longest field goal of the season when he converted a 50-yarder to make it 13-0 in the third.

Williams got his ninth sack of the season and first in almost a month when he took down Garrard on third-and-5 to force a punt late in the second. The second one came in the third when the QB tripped on one of his lineman and got back up to try to get a pass off. Williams yanked him down before he could get rid of the ball.

Johnson’s 31-yard catch capped a quick opening drive and gave the Texans a 7-0 lead early in the first. The reception gave Johnson a franchise-record 29 career touchdowns.

Houston had a chance to stretch its lead just before halftime. But Bryan Pittman’s snap scooted across the grass and 40-year-old holder Matt Turk picked it up and attempted a pass which flew out of the end zone.

Jacksonville’s only chance to score in the first half came early in the second quarter when Josh Scobee’s 43-yard attempt sailed wide right. Scobee kicked a 29-yarder in the third.



Houston Texans defensive end Mario Williams (90) knocks the ball out of the hand of Jacksonville Jaguars quarterback David Garrard (9) causing a fumble during the fourth quarter of a NFL football game Monday, Dec. 1, 2008, in Houston. AP

tion and Kris Brown kicked three field goals in the win, a highlight in Houston’s disappointing season so far.

The top pick in the 2006 draft, Williams brought down quarterback David Garrard in the second, third and fourth quarters. He forced a fumble by Garrard on his last sack and Houston recovered on the 7.

“Our defense was excellent throughout the game,” coach Gary Kubiak said. “Our defense played extremely well,

time and said he wanted to carry the ball more after getting nine attempts in the first half.

“I wanted to run the ball,” Slaton said. “I wanted to let him know that if he needed someone to count on, it was me.”

Slaton, Williams and the rest of the Texans were clad in their “Battle Red” uniforms for their first Monday night game. The city of Houston hosted a Monday night game for the first time

game, a Thursday night matchup against Denver last season, he finished with 3 1/2 sacks.

Houston (5-7) isn’t where it hoped to be after finishing 8-8 last year, but is feeling good after two straight wins.

Jacksonville (4-8), a playoff team last season, has lost five of six after another lackluster performance. The Jaguars had three turnovers and missed a field goal. Garrard fell to the grass twice without being touched by the defense.

## Lance Armstrong to race in 2009 Tour



**AUSTIN, Texas (AP)**—Lance Armstrong will ride in the 2009 Tour de France, marking the first time he will compete in that race and the Giro d’Italia in the same year.

“I’m committed to riding for the best guy,” Armstrong said Monday, acknowledging the taxing schedule could leave him riding in a supporting role in France.

The Giro runs May 9-31, and the Tour begins July 4.

With such a quick turnaround between two grueling races, the seven-time Tour champion acknowledged his body might not perform at the same level it did when he won his last Tour in 2005.

“If you’ve been away for three or four years, it would be silly for anybody to think I could pick up where I left off,” Armstrong told The Associated Press in a telephone interview from Tenerife in the Canary Islands where Astana is training. “I can tell you I feel better than ever, I feel stronger than ever on Dec. 1. How

that translates to racing, we’ll have to see. Mentally, in terms of motivation, this feels like 1998-1999 to me.”

Armstrong’s decision to ride gives the powerhouse Astana team a superstar lineup in France, including 2007 Tour winner Alberto Contador. He missed last year’s race because Astana was barred from riding for previous doping violations. Also riding with Astana is Germany’s Andreas Kloezen, American veteran Levi Leipheimer and top support rider Yaroslav Popovych. Astana is considered by far the strongest multistage team.

“We’ll abide by the same code that I do: cycling is team sport, while we’d all like to win,” he said.

The 37-year-old stunned the cycling world in September, when he announced he was ending his three-year retirement. He said then his goal was to race in the Tour but stopped short of a guarantee.

Reached by telephone, French anti-doping agency chief Pierre Bordry

would not comment on Armstrong’s decision but did say “he will treated like everyone else” when it comes to drug testing.

Jonathan Vaughters, Armstrong’s U.S. Postal teammate during the 1999 Tour win and now Garmin Chipotle’s sporting director, said he was not surprised by the news.

“I never considered it a realistic possibility he wasn’t going to do the Tour, Vaughters said by telephone. “It’s the biggest race in the world. Why wouldn’t he want to do that?”

In recent interviews, Armstrong revealed worries about his personal safety while riding in the open roads of France and through the throngs of fans that pack the route.

The Tour has its own police force to guard each stage and ensure safety, and French police paid particular attention to Armstrong’s safety when he was riding. In recent years, organizers have taken additional steps to protect riders.

Armstrong dismissed any potential

threats Monday: “It’s not going to keep me from going and doing my job, and it’s not going to keep me from spreading my message.”

He has dedicated his comeback to raising awareness for the Lance Armstrong Foundation and his global fight against cancer.

“I’m happy with the record (seven wins). I’m training hard and trying to be as competitive as possible,” he said. “The main objective is the message of the foundation. That’s the first priority and if we ride moderately well, it helps get the message out.”

He’s scheduled to return to elite racing Jan. 20 for the Tour Down Under in Australia. That’s also when the drug-testing program he’s arranging with Don Catlin, America’s top anti-doping expert, will be in place.

But no race provides a stage similar to the Tour.

“The Tour is the biggest bike race in the world; we need it to tell this story on the biggest stage,” Armstrong said. “There’s a mutual respect there, it hasn’t always been mutual love. We need them, they need us.”

## Burruss appears in court, has bail set at \$100,000

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Taken to court in handcuffs, Plaxico Burruss posted \$100,000 bail on weapons possession charges Monday as the frenzy grew around the Giants star receiver who accidentally shot himself in a nightclub. Authorities said teammate Antonio Pierce was being investigated over his role in the weekend shooting, while the Super Bowl-champion Giants weren’t sure what action they would take, if any, against Burruss.

The NFL said it was monitoring developments. Mayor Michael Bloomberg also weighed in, saying it would be an outrage “if we didn’t prosecute to the fullest extent of the law.”

Burruss shot himself in the right thigh in the VIP section of the Latin Quarter nightclub in Manhattan about 1 a.m. Saturday, police said. He did not have a permit to carry a handgun in New York.

A witness reported hearing a popping sound before Burruss’ legs began to shake, according to a criminal complaint. It said the person saw a bloody pistol fall out of his pant leg and land on the floor before Burruss said “Take me to a hospital.”

It’s believed Pierce took Burruss to a car and then left with him, according to police. Burruss was treated at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center and released later Saturday.

Burruss was charged with two counts of second-degree criminal possession of a weapon, which could result in a prison sentence of 3 1/2 years to 15 years if he is convicted. He was not required to enter a plea Monday and is due back in court on March 31. Burruss did not say anything in court.

“He is standing tall. He is a mature adult,” said Benjamin Brafman, his defense lawyer. “I think any professional athlete in this situation would be concerned.”

He said Burruss is feeling OK. “If they let him play, he will be able to play. ... I think he will be a superstar for the rest of his career.”


Originally, police had said that running back Derrick Ward was with Burruss and Pierce at the club, relying on information given to them from security guards at the bar. But police said later that it was unclear if Ward was at the club, and the running back denied that he was.

The Giants have not decided what to do with Burruss, who was suspended for a game and fined earlier this season for missing a team meeting in September. New York could either suspend him again or deactivate him for Sunday’s game at home against the Eagles. There are more extreme actions, such as releasing Burruss, but that could put a strain on the team’s salary cap next season.

“We’re dealing with that,” coach Tom Coughlin said in a conference call Monday. “Today we had some discussions and those discussions will be ongoing.”

Coughlin would not speculate what the team would do if Burruss showed up for practice Wednesday.

# Pacquiao: Relax, don't be edgy

 **LOS ANGELES**—Pausing from signing autographs for close friends, Manny Pacquiao pondered a question on what's next now that his team was scheduled to leave for Nevada's gambling haven in preparation for the Dec. 6 "Dream Match" against Oscar De La Hoya.

"Relax lang kayo (Just relax)," he said, laughing. "Masyado kayong kinakabahan eh (You're too uptight)."

Those close to him, though, knew how much of a joke that

statement really was.

As Team Pacquiao heads off to Nevada Monday (Tuesday in Manila), the main problem for the people prepping him for what has been described as the biggest fight of the pound-for-pound champ's career is how to tell the guy to relax.

Pacquiao's trainers said that the remaining days should be dedicated to tapering off. And that's the problem.

"To tell Manny to taper off is hard," fitness, strength and conditioning coach Alex Ariza said Sunday.

"But we just have to ask him to take things slower, lower the intensity and not push himself too much. That is the most that I can tell him to do—maybe cut the running in half, turn it to jogging."

Pacquiao has been known to shift into high gear every time he trains for a fight, no matter how close fight night is. Trainer Freddie Roach voiced out in the past how the four-division champion had to be restrained during training sessions.

"You say he has to hit the bags for two minutes, he adds

another minute to it," Roach had said.

But Ariza, who replaced Justin Fortune, hopes he can sell the need to taper off to Pacquiao.

"Sometimes I can talk to him and if I can explain to him the why and how the muscle recovers, and how it gets stronger that way, he listens," he said. "I think he trusts me, so he'll listen."

Pacquiao already has 159 rounds of sparring under his belt and he is expected to hike that number by four more rounds as he spars one last time Monday, just before leading a multi-vehicle convoy to the neon-bathed desert gambling haven.

That's the most number of sparring rounds Pacquiao has ever undergone in preparation for a fight.

The Filipino boxing hero did take a day off from training Sunday and stayed mostly at his Palazzo residence at the La Brea area here after hearing mass early in the morning.

"Manny's the only fighter who can dictate how hard he wants to push himself," Ariza said. "If he wants to, just to prove a point, he can push himself 110 percent a hundred percent of the time. It's bizarre to see someone being able to adjust the intensity level the way he does."

Ariza has penciled Pacquiao to be at 95 percent a week before the fight and figures that the reigning WBC lightweight king will peak just at the right time.

Pacquiao now weighs 148 lb, a pound over the welterweight limit set for this expected blockbuster.

Ariza had earlier tried to insert plyometrics into Pacquiao's routine. Plyometrics is an exercise that enhances an athlete's ability to perform sudden muscle movements such as punches and jumps.

But it was clear Pacquiao was responding differently to the exercise. **(PDI)**

## MIGS

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remaining in the game.

Bernard Aquino's inside pass to Cosino was then intercepted by MIGS with Basila completing the steal and pitching the ball to Cadagat. The MIGS point guard was all alone for a fastbreak, but instead of going for an easy shot, he tried to be fancy, tapping the board after making a layup.

FIBA Level 1 referee William Sewell nullified the shot, as players were not allowed to do that.

MIGS' coach and players argued the call and the game was halted, with 59 seconds left on the clock.

But Sewell's call remained keeping MIGS' lead to five.

Guiab made another basket cutting the lead to three, 84-87. Diamond had several chances to move closer or even tie the game, but Barbo

and Ed Cosino muffed point-blank shots and Esdrelon missed a triple.

MIGS countered with a fast-break play with Kae Bernardo making a basket and drawing a foul from Brendo Talania to seal the win, with only six seconds remaining on the clock.

In the second game, NRG pushed all the right buttons to catch Century off guard.

NRG was on target from downtown, connected on fastbreak layups, nailed a

couple of alley-hoop shots, made a decent job from the free throw line, and played tough defense against Century's frontliners.

Century center Larry Pale-ro, who was consistent on offense in the regular season, had to bleed for points, as NRG's defense clamped down on him. He finished with only six points. To make matters worse for Century, its snipers sparingly canned outside shots.

NRG's younger and faster crew worned down Century, which failed to shuffle its players properly forcing the starting five to play extended minutes.

**First Game**

**MIGS 89**—Lerio 29, Cadagat 18, Basila 11, Bernardo 11, Moises 7, Capalad 5, Demapan 5, Tamayo 2.

**Diamond 84**—Esdrelon 26, Guiab 18, Ranola 13, D. Barbo 12, Talania 5, Bicara 3, Aquino

2, Cosino 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 17-15, 43-37, 69-62, 89-84.

**Second Game**

**NRG 98**—Cruz 29, Estolas 22, Villarin 10, Peredo 10, Villacris 9, Camacho 6, Capalad 4, Artates 2, Dayrit 2, Gamboa 1.

**Century 86**—Abuel 26, Marasigan 18, Joyner 16, Gapor 7, Pagarao 7, Dela Torre 4, Opone 2, Vinas 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 25-18, 45-38, 73-53, 98-86.

## ZAPANTA

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total of 1,095 in the six-game Doubles series.

He looked sluggish from the beginning, knocking down a mere 162 pinfalls in the first game before improving a bit with rolls of 185, 184, and 179 in his next three. He then tattooed 206 in his penultimate game before recording a 179 in his last to finish with a 182.5 average.

Soledad also failed to get going, putting together a six-game series of 173, 139, 144, 186, 204, 190, to finish with 1,036 pinfalls and 172.67 average.

Daegu's Kim Young Pyo and Lee Tae Ju topped Men's Doubles Squad A with an eye-popping pinfall total of 2,717.

Michael Tsang and Ken Lin of Hong Kong came in second with their 2,627, while Hong Kong's Byoung Hee and Cha Ji Hyun were third with their 2,533.

Results for the Men's Doubles

Squad B, where Ador Dimaano and Percy Omechalang played, were still not available as off press time.

In the women's division, Paranaque City looks set to regain the overall champion title they lost last year when Liza Clutario and Cecilia Yap gave their city a second gold medal in the Women's Doubles event.

Winning the women's Singles gold medal may have taken its toll on Clutario as she had an awful start. Fortunately,

ly, her partner and ex-international Cecilia Yap backed her up and the pair wound up with the championship.

A record number of participants from 22 cities are taking part in the 22nd Asian Intercity Bowling Championship which kicked off last Monday at the 24-lane Macau Bowling Center in Taipa-Coloane.

Participating cities are Taipei City from Chinese Taipei, Tamuning from Guam, Hong Kong, Happy Valley, Kowloon, Victoria from Hong Kong,

Bangalore, Chennai and Delhi from India, Daegu, Pohang and Uiwang from Korea, Kuantan and Shah Alam from Malaysia, Macau, Macau Coloane, Macau Taipa, Saipan, Paranaque City and Pasay City from the Philip-

pines and Singapore.

The 22nd Asian Intercity Bowling Championship's Team of Four will be held today with the Masters finals closing out the competition over two days on Dec. 4 and 5.

## CUC

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scoring on a sacrifice fly by catcher Julie Guerrero.

Finance's other run was made in the fourth inning with Lebria anew reaching home plate on an Ema Tenorio single.

CUC continued to pile up runs, drilling two each in the second, third, and sixth. The only time CUC failed to score was in the fourth.

Five CUC batters went 2-for-3 at-bat and last year's runner-up to defending champion Department of Community and Cultural Affairs shot 13-for-34 at the plate for a batting average of .382.

Finance performed miserably at-bat with an average of .280

after going only 7-for-25.

**MEN'S SaipanCell 14, CUC 8**

In the first game in the men's division, Tyrone Omar went perfect at-bat to lead SaipanCell to a 14-8 triumph over CUC.

The SML defending MVP Omar scored three runs and had two RBIs and two singles in SaipanCell's third win in six games.

Payton Sakuma was also impressive at-bat, going 2-for-3 and recording five RBIs.

CUC continued to drop in the team standings absorbing its fifth loss in six matches.

SaipanCell had a four-run top of the first and second to set the tone in the game.

CUC threatened after three

complete innings cutting SaipanCell's lead to one, 7-8, but the latter allowed the former to score only one run in the last four innings to preserve the win.

Shortstop Vinnie Sablan scored CUC's eighth run at the bottom of the fifth on a Jeff Cabrera double.

SaipanCell failed to score in the third and fourth, but had six runs in the remaining three innings with leftfielder Dave Kapileo making a two-run homer at the top of the sixth.

**PSS 8, Law & Order 3**

Public School System managed to nail an 8-3 victory over Law & Order before rain made the field unplayable.

It started raining at the top of

the seventh, but teams decided to continue playing.

It took PSS only a few minutes after the rain started to fall to finish off Law & Order, as the former was done after only three batters. The first two batters flied out, while a 6-3 putout play on catcher Albert Hicking ended the game in favor of PSS.

PSS improved to a 2-2 record, while Law & Order dropped to a 2-2 slate.

Pitcher John Terlaje went 3-for-3 for PSS and scored two runs, including a two-run homer at the bottom of the first.

PSS scored two homers in the game with right fielder Derrick Aughenbaugh making the other round-tripper also at the bottom of the first.

## SMASH

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distance with the duos of Macoi Aguda-Lucelle Lampera, Marlene Peraja-Galvez, Peraja-Lampera, and Aguda-Ariel Mariano surviving their foes.

With the win, Smash Killers are now at the solo No. 1 spot

with their 21-9 record.

Green All-Stars nearly swept Bad Masters, 5-1, to place second in the team standings with the former's 20-10 slate.

Bad Masters (13-17) are in a three-way deadlock for fifth place tying Net Fighters and Blue Powers.

Gray Hawks are in solo third spot with their 16-14 record af-

ter a 3-3 draw with Net Fighters on Day 5.

Dragon Shuttlers are in fourth place despite a 2-4 loss to Blue Powers.

The second edition of the Traders badminton team tournament will conclude this weekend with the eight participating teams having three games left each.

The Top 3 teams after the single-round robin tournament will receive trophies.

The Traders Insurance tournament is also supported by Shirley's Coffee Shop, Pacific Quick Print, Coral Ocean Point, PTI, Sun Palace Hotel, Wear-A-Marconi, Tropex, Dollar Days, and Labtech International.

| TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES       |    |    |      |         |     |     |  |  |  |
|-----------------------------|----|----|------|---------|-----|-----|--|--|--|
| NBA STANDINGS               |    |    |      |         |     |     |  |  |  |
| EASTERN CONFERENCE          |    |    |      |         |     |     |  |  |  |
| Atlantic Division           |    |    |      |         |     |     |  |  |  |
|                             | W  | L  | Pct  | GB      |     |     |  |  |  |
| Boston                      | 17 | 2  | .895 | —       |     |     |  |  |  |
| New Jersey                  | 9  | 7  | .563 | 6 1/2   |     |     |  |  |  |
| New York                    | 8  | 8  | .500 | 7 1/2   |     |     |  |  |  |
| Toronto                     | 8  | 8  | .500 | 7 1/2   |     |     |  |  |  |
| Philadelphia                | 7  | 10 | .412 | 9       |     |     |  |  |  |
| Southeast Division          |    |    |      |         |     |     |  |  |  |
| Orlando                     | 13 | 5  | .722 | —       |     |     |  |  |  |
| Atlanta                     | 10 | 6  | .625 | 2       |     |     |  |  |  |
| Miami                       | 9  | 9  | .500 | 4       |     |     |  |  |  |
| Charlotte                   | 6  | 11 | .353 | 6 1/2   |     |     |  |  |  |
| Washington                  | 2  | 12 | .143 | 9       |     |     |  |  |  |
| Central Division            |    |    |      |         |     |     |  |  |  |
| Cleveland                   | 14 | 3  | .824 | —       |     |     |  |  |  |
| Detroit                     | 10 | 6  | .625 | 3 1/2   |     |     |  |  |  |
| Chicago                     | 8  | 9  | .471 | 6       |     |     |  |  |  |
| Indiana                     | 6  | 10 | .375 | 7 1/2   |     |     |  |  |  |
| Milwaukee                   | 7  | 12 | .368 | 8       |     |     |  |  |  |
| WESTERN CONFERENCE          |    |    |      |         |     |     |  |  |  |
| Southwest Division          |    |    |      |         |     |     |  |  |  |
| Houston                     | 11 | 7  | .611 | —       |     |     |  |  |  |
| New Orleans                 | 9  | 6  | .600 | 1/2     |     |     |  |  |  |
| San Antonio                 | 9  | 7  | .563 | 1       |     |     |  |  |  |
| Dallas                      | 8  | 8  | .500 | 2       |     |     |  |  |  |
| Memphis                     | 4  | 13 | .235 | 6 1/2   |     |     |  |  |  |
| Northwest Division          |    |    |      |         |     |     |  |  |  |
| Denver                      | 12 | 6  | .667 | —       |     |     |  |  |  |
| Portland                    | 12 | 6  | .667 | —       |     |     |  |  |  |
| Utah                        | 11 | 7  | .611 | 1       |     |     |  |  |  |
| Minnesota                   | 4  | 12 | .250 | 7       |     |     |  |  |  |
| Oklahoma City               | 2  | 16 | .111 | 10      |     |     |  |  |  |
| Pacific Division            |    |    |      |         |     |     |  |  |  |
| L.A. Lakers                 | 14 | 1  | .933 | —       |     |     |  |  |  |
| Phoenix                     | 11 | 7  | .611 | 4 1/2   |     |     |  |  |  |
| Golden State                | 5  | 13 | .278 | 10 1/2  |     |     |  |  |  |
| Sacramento                  | 5  | 14 | .263 | 11      |     |     |  |  |  |
| L.A. Clippers               | 3  | 13 | .188 | 11 1/2  |     |     |  |  |  |
| South                       |    |    |      |         |     |     |  |  |  |
| Tennessee                   | 11 | 1  | .917 | 304 175 |     |     |  |  |  |
| Indianapolis                | 8  | 4  | .667 | 257 250 |     |     |  |  |  |
| Houston                     | 5  | 7  | .417 | 282 310 |     |     |  |  |  |
| Jacksonville                | 4  | 8  | .333 | 241 270 |     |     |  |  |  |
| North                       |    |    |      |         |     |     |  |  |  |
| Pittsburgh                  | 9  | 3  | .750 | 269 170 |     |     |  |  |  |
| Baltimore                   | 8  | 4  | .667 | 292 190 |     |     |  |  |  |
| Cleveland                   | 4  | 8  | .333 | 213 247 |     |     |  |  |  |
| Cincinnati                  | 1  | 10 | .125 | 151 310 |     |     |  |  |  |
| West                        |    |    |      |         |     |     |  |  |  |
| Denver                      | 7  | 5  | .583 | 292 319 |     |     |  |  |  |
| San Diego                   | 4  | 8  | .333 | 290 274 |     |     |  |  |  |
| Oakland                     | 3  | 9  | .250 | 172 265 |     |     |  |  |  |
| Kansas City                 | 2  | 10 | .167 | 216 340 |     |     |  |  |  |
| NATIONAL CONFERENCE         |    |    |      |         |     |     |  |  |  |
| East                        |    |    |      |         |     |     |  |  |  |
| N.Y. Giants                 | 11 | 1  | .917 | 352 20  |     |     |  |  |  |
| Dallas                      | 8  | 4  | .667 | 299 260 |     |     |  |  |  |
| Washington                  | 7  | 5  | .583 | 208 222 |     |     |  |  |  |
| Philadelphia                | 6  | 5  | .542 | 319 249 |     |     |  |  |  |
| South                       |    |    |      |         |     |     |  |  |  |
| Tampa Bay                   | 9  | 3  | .750 | 280 200 |     |     |  |  |  |
| Carolina                    | 9  | 3  | .750 | 285 23  |     |     |  |  |  |
| Atlanta                     | 8  | 4  | .667 | 298 24  |     |     |  |  |  |
| New Orleans                 | 6  | 6  | .500 | 337 301 |     |     |  |  |  |
| North                       |    |    |      |         |     |     |  |  |  |
| Minnesota                   | 7  | 5  | .583 | 287 260 |     |     |  |  |  |
| Chicago                     | 6  | 6  | .500 | 281 268 |     |     |  |  |  |
| Green Bay                   | 5  | 7  | .417 | 334 295 |     |     |  |  |  |
| Detroit                     | 0  | 12 | .000 | 203 393 |     |     |  |  |  |
| West                        |    |    |      |         |     |     |  |  |  |
| Arizona                     | 7  | 5  | .583 | 338 313 |     |     |  |  |  |
| San Francisco               | 4  | 8  | .333 | 262 313 |     |     |  |  |  |
| Seattle                     | 2  | 10 | .167 | 216 311 |     |     |  |  |  |
| St. Louis                   | 2  | 10 | .167 | 159 360 |     |     |  |  |  |
| Yesterday's Game            |    |    |      |         |     |     |  |  |  |
| Houston 30, Jacksonville 17 |    |    |      |         |     |     |  |  |  |
| By The Associated Press     |    |    |      |         |     |     |  |  |  |
| LOCAL SCORES                |    |    |      |         |     |     |  |  |  |
| NMBF STANDINGS              |    |    |      |         |     |     |  |  |  |
| Smash Killers               | 21 | 9  |      |         |     |     |  |  |  |
| All Stars                   | 20 | 10 |      |         |     |     |  |  |  |
| Gray Hawks                  | 16 | 14 |      |         |     |     |  |  |  |
| Dragon Shuttlers            | 15 | 15 |      |         |     |     |  |  |  |
| Bad Masters                 | 13 | 17 |      |         |     |     |  |  |  |
| Net Fighters                | 13 | 17 |      |         |     |     |  |  |  |
| Blue Powers                 | 13 | 17 |      |         |     |     |  |  |  |
| D'Bombers                   | 8  | 22 |      |         |     |     |  |  |  |
| AMERICAN CONFERENCE         |    |    |      |         |     |     |  |  |  |
| East                        |    |    |      |         |     |     |  |  |  |
|                             | W  | L  | T    | Pct     | PF  | PA  |  |  |  |
| N.Y. Jets                   | 8  | 4  | 0    | .667    | 340 | 268 |  |  |  |
| New England                 | 7  | 5  | 0    | .583    | 277 | 255 |  |  |  |
| Miami                       | 7  | 5  | 0    | .583    | 253 | 257 |  |  |  |
| Buffalo                     | 6  | 6  | 0    | .500    | 276 | 259 |  |  |  |

# Brabu tops Thanksgiving youth softball tournament

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



Brabu lived up to its name making a mighty showing in the 2nd Annual Thanksgiving Youth Slowpitch Softball Tournament after outshining the North All-Stars Sunday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

Brabu, which means strong in Chamorro, recorded a 9-5 win over the North All-Stars in the finals to gain the 16 to 18 age group crown in the annual youth tournament.

Shortstop Nokki Saralu went 3-for-3 at the plate and blasted a two-run homer at the bottom of the second to lift Brabu to a title win.

Juan Iguel was also perfect at-bat, going 3-for-3. He scored three runs, one double, one triple and two RBIs.

Joining Iguel and Saralu on the champion team were Ryan Lisua, Mike Iguel, Ben Taisacan, Lia and Rachel Rangamar, J.P. Lizama, Chris Ayuyu, Lem Ogomoro, Tony Rogolifoi, and Lamar Iguel. Elias Saralu coached Brabu.



Brabu and their supporters pose for a group photo after winning the 16 to 18 age group division title in the 2nd Annual Thanksgiving Youth Slowpitch Softball Tournament Sunday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

Nokki's two-run homer sparked Brabu's four-run bottom of the second and allowed the eventual champion to take a 7-3 lead.

Runs were hard to come by for

both teams in the next two innings with the North All-Stars scoring only one in the third, and Brabu making two in the fourth.

With Brabu leading at 9-4, shortstop

Ike Aldan brightened up the North All-Stars' chances for the title when he led off at the top of the fifth and connected on a solo homer.

But Brabu's defense tightened up in the remaining part of the fifth inning and in the last two giving up only a run. Second baseman Ben Cabrera scored the North All-Stars' fifth run on a Keone Pua's single at the top of the sixth.

Brabu sealed the victory at the top of the seventh inning, throwing out the North All-Stars' first three batters.

Aldan led off for the North All-Stars and flied out to right field, while extra hitter B.J. Philip was beaten to first base on a 5-3 putout play. The North All-Stars were called for the third out when centerfielder Juan Tenorio flied out to left.

Brabu joined the Patriots and Dandan Elementary School in champions' circle of the 2008 Thanksgiving softball tournament.

The Pats topped the 13 to 15 age group division beating Kagman, 5-2, while the Dandan Tottots ruled the 9 to 12 age group downing Team Familia, 8-0.

Five teams competed for the 9 to 16 age group with the Twins placing third. Kagman and the Little Falcons were the two other teams that joined the event.

Six teams participated in the 13 to 15 age group with Hilitai, third placer Hopwood, Da Lancherus, and the Eagles included on the list.

The oldest age group had five teams with third placer Kagman, Banzai, and the Titans joining Brabu and the North All-Stars.

The Top 3 teams received trophies from tournament main organizer Division of Youth Services.

## Cooperation of motorists requested



Organizers of the 2nd Annual Hell of the Marianas Century Cycle are asking for the cooperation of motorists during the races this Saturday.

More than 70 riders are expected to join the 100-kilometer race that will allow on- and off-island cyclists to cruise the island.

With bikers cycling through Saipan's flat, hilly, and steep roads, motorists are advised to take extra caution from 6:30am to 9:30am on the northbound lane of Isa Drive near San Vicente, Papago, Kagman, and Capitol Hill.

Race organizers said cones will be placed on the road to indicate bike lanes.

For additional safely measures, Pacific Islands Club, which is the main organizer of this weekend's race, is also asking the public to restrain their dogs.

This Saturday's races will have Saipan riders competing against cyclist from Guam and Korea.

Races will have three competitions, namely the individual 100-km race, two-person relay team, and the four-person relay.

Eli Torgeson is the defending champion in the individual race, while Last Minute Entry and Beezlebug Bikers were last year's winners in the two-person and four-person relays, respectively.

Participants in this year's Hell of Marianas are asked to be at PIC's south parking lot at 5:15am for the race brief-



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Nate Hawley enters the PIC loop during last year's Hell of the Marianas Century Cycle Race. The second edition of the annual 100-km race will run this Saturday.

ing. Races will kick off at 6:15am.

Riders will start from PIC's parking lot and head north to the Chalan Piao intersection, make a U-turn back to the start and proceed south into the village of Koblerville toward the Saipan International Airport. From the

airport, the cyclists will ride uphill toward the eastern fringes of the island, through the residential villages of San Vicente, Papago, and Kagman toward the Laolao Bay Golf Resort. From the golf course, the bikers will proceed north on Isa Drive and descend down to the Kingfisher Golf Course entrance, and make the U-turn, scaling the long, windy road uphill to Capitol Hill. At the bottom of Capitol Hill, the course converges on Chalan Pale Arnold Road to the next checkpoint high atop Radar Hill in As Matuis. The last portion of the race will bring riders to the historical sites of Suicide Cliff, Bird Island, Grotto, and Banzai Cliff before they head back along Beach Road and to PIC's finish line.

The top finisher in the men's and women's open will win \$1,000 each and a five-day/four-night Gold Stay for two at PIC Saipan. Second placers will receive \$350 each and a two-day/one-night stay for two at PIC Guam, while the third finishers will take home \$250 each and a two-day/one-night stay for two at PIC Saipan.

This year's Hell of Marianas is sponsored by Aon Insurance, Aquarius Beach Tower, Asia Scooters, Chung Nam Corp., Coca Cola, COP, Deloitte, DFS, DPS, G4S, Hornet, Joeten Ent., JWS, Kautz Glass, KL Carr, MVA, NMIFA, PIC Boutiki, PIC Guam, PTC, PTI, Shell, Sunset Dinner Cruise, Taga Inc., Tinian Dynasty, Triple J 5 Star Saipan, and WDI Saipan. (Roselyn B. Monroyo)

## Budweiser caging to start in week's time



The 2008-2009 Budweiser Basketball League will kick off as originally planned next Wednesday, Dec. 10.

Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands director and Budweiser caging coordinator Abner Venus said all interested team should contact him to confirm their participation before the week ends.

He said so far seven teams have signed up for the season, led by defending champion Rock Steady, Junior Nationals, Ol'Aces I and II, Jesse Tudela's Sonics, Ray Duenas' Sixers, and Arnold Mesa's Master All-Star Selection.

Venus said BANMI is planning to use the Budweiser Basketball League as a training ground for the FIBA Oce-

ania Championship, which the CNMI is hosting on June 2009. BANMI is a member of FIBA Oceania.

Entry fee for the Budweiser Basketball League is \$500, down from \$800 a year ago. Players however need to pay a \$5 membership fee each, which is exclusive of the team entrance fee.

Participating teams also must abide by FIBA rules and can only field a 12-player lineup in the Budweiser Basketball League.

Aside from the Budweiser caging, BANMI will also be hosting a 3-on-3 tournament on Dec. 6 and 7 and Venus promised that a ton of prizes and giveaways will be given to the top teams.

For more inquiries about the Budweiser Basketball League, call Venus at 234-5911 or Elias Rangamar at 664-2502. (Mark Rabago)

## RGA Club Championship moved to Sunday

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



From its original Saturday date, Refaluwasch Golf Association has moved its 2008 Club Championship to Sunday, Dec. 7.

Tournament director Jess Wabol said they postponed the yearend tournament a day later to allow its members to take part in a golf tournament hosted by Northwest Airlines set the

day before.

The day may have changed but the tee time stays the same at 11am, but Wabol said participants have to check in at the Kingfisher Golf Links an hour earlier at 10am for pairings and briefing.

Of the 12 monthly winners, all but Richard Pierce will be able to take part in the 2008 Club Championship.

Wabol said Pierce's slot will be taken over by the April winner's runner-up John Mettao. The rest of the

qualifiers for the yearend affair are Luis Byun (January), Asterio Tawanpiy (February), Jess Wabol (March), Joe Demapan (May), Jordan Kossam (June), Manny Mangarero (July), Nick Sablan (August), Tars Olopai (September), Sonny Flores (October), Bae Yong Man (November), and Dwain Stephens (December).

The winner of the 2008 Club Championship gets to pocket \$250 in cash, while runners-up take home \$200 and \$100, respectively.

Closest-to-the-pin prizes in all par-3 holes will also be up for grabs.

Entry fee for the yearend competition varies from member to member, as those who took part in at least 10 rounds and played in the Inaugural RGA Memorial Classic the past year will only need to fork out \$30.

Those who played in the Memorial but failed to participate in at least 10 of RGA's monthly and qualifying tournament, meanwhile, will have to part with \$80, while the regular fee is \$100.

The awards banquet for the 2008 Club Championship will be tenta-

tively held at the Giovanni's inside Hyatt Regency Saipan from 6:30pm to 9:30pm.

In addition to the winners of the tournament being feted, RGA will also honor monthly winners of the year as well as award winners of the Most Putts, Least Putts, High Gross, Low Gross, Most Birdies, Most Pars, Most Bogeys, Most Double Bogeys, and Most Triple Bogeys categories.

For more information about the 2008 Club Championship, contact Wabol at 233-3673 or RGA president Adam Hardwicke at 483-2926.



## Heat rally in final seconds of OT to beat Warriors

Chris Quinn hit a tying 3-pointer with 7.1 seconds left in overtime, Michael Beasley stole the ensuing inbound pass and made the decisive free throw.

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

## Brabu tops Thanksgiving youth softball tournament

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# MIGS, NRG move closer to finals stint

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

**M**IGS and C&R Distributor/NRG recorded contrasting wins in the continuation of the playoff round of Inaugural 2008 PILCOWA-San Miguel Beer Basketball League Monday night at the CIC Centre Basketball Court in Garapan to move a win away from advancing to the finals.

MIGS pulled off an 89-84 victory over Diamond Auto Care in the first game, while NRG stunned pennant champion Century Insurance, 98-86, in the second match.

Another triumph in tonight's game against Century will give MIGS the first finals slot. NRG will also go for a victory against Diamond to claim the second finals

seat. Wins by Century and Diamond will make an open race for the two championship tickets. Teams to lose two games in the playoffs will be boot-ed out of the tournament.

MIGS, which had an easy time in its first playoff game against San Miguel, 95-82, drew tough resistance from Diamond.

But clutch baskets from Cadagat and successive misses and a couple of errors from Diamond in the closing minutes of the game allowed MIGS to eke out the five-point win.

After MIGS led at 76-67 midway

in the final period, Junar Guiab scored eight in Diamond's short 12-3 spurt to tie the game, 79-all, going into the last three minutes of the match.

Guiab tried to give the lead to Diamond, but missed a layup paving the way for a MIGS' fastbreak play with Cadagat dishing the ball to Ernie Moses for an easy two points.

After a perfect assist and another Diamond miss

Cadagat connected on a running shot to increase MIGS's lead, 83-79, with 2:18 left on the clock.

Diamond sued for time, but after a short break, the Boy Garcia-mentored squad scored only a point on Darwin Barbo's split. Banjo Basilla answered a basket against Elmer Esdrelon to up MIGS' advantage to five, 85-80, with 1:43 left in the game.

Esdrelon's two free throws kept Diamond's hope alive, but in their next offensive play he stepped on the right sideline while preparing to drive handing ball possession to MIGS. Cadagat put the lead back to five on his two free throws, with 1:16

See MIGS on Page 26

MIGS' Bonbon Cadagat, left, goes for a left-handed layup against Diamond Auto Care's Elmer Esdrelon during their playoff game in the Inaugural 2008 PILCOWA-San Miguel Beer Basketball League Monday night at the CIC Centre Basketball Court in Garapan.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

## Zapanta, Soledad struggle in Doubles

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



Team Saipan's Ross Zapanta and Jorge Soledad finished last in the Men's Doubles Squad A of the 22nd Asian Inter City Tenpin Bowling Championships yesterday in Macau, China.

Struggling to get accustomed to the lane conditions of the Macau Bowling Center, the pair wound up with 2,131 pins to come in last in the division.

Zapanta wasn't able to rekindle the spark that allowed him to finish 30<sup>th</sup> in the 80-man Singles competition the day before, by registering a pinfall

See ZAPANTA on Page 26



Team Saipan players pose during the opening ceremony of the 22nd Asian Inter City Tenpin Bowling Championships Monday. From left, Jorge Soledad, Ross Zapanta, Ador Dimaano, and Percy Omechalang.

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## CUC breaks into win column in women's softball

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



Dolorina Panuelo sparked Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s hot start en route to lifting her team to an easy 12-2 victory over Finance in the women's division of the Budweiser 2008 Inter Government/Business Softball League Monday night at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

It was CUC's first win in five games.

Panuelo connected on a three-run triple at the top of the first inning and CUC went on to score two more runs in that stage to take early control of the match.

Finance had only one run in the first inning with centerfielder Liz Lebria

See CUC on Page 26



Public School System players pose for a group photo after beating Law & Order, 8-3, in the Budweiser 2008 Inter Government/Business Softball League Monday night at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

## Smash Killers sweep D'Bombers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



Smash Killers posted the first sweep in the 2nd Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament after shutting

out D'Bombers, 6-0, Sunday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Games scheduled on Day 5 of the tournament were all doubles matches with Smash Killers winning in the men's doubles AB and BB, women's doubles BB, and the mixed doubles CC, AB, and BC.

Elna Curate and Andrew Galvez nailed the most impressive victory in Smash Killers' sweep of D'Bombers, as the duo defeated Puy Macario and Merlie Tolentino in straight sets, 21-8, 21-13, in the mixed doubles CC.

Robert Reyes and Paul Navarro also prevailed in straight sets in the men's doubles BB against the tandem of Aries Montano and Arnel Bansagale, 21-14, 21-19.

The four remaining doubles matches went the

See SMASH on Page 26



Gray Hawks' Saul Gargallo eyes a shot against the Green All-Stars' Gerry Balarao during their single match in the 2nd Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament Saturday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Garballo played Sunday teaming up with Obet Aguilar to beat the Net Fighters' Alvin Alvarez and Ric Bue.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO